

# Ila Mae Ambach Chosen as City's Good Neighbor

# REDONDO NIXES MOVE TO TRANSFER STUDENTS OUT OF TORRANCE SCHOOL

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## Fathers' Group To Investigate School Loads

Organization of a North Torrance Fathers' Club to investigate what some parents term inadequate schools to meet the needs of a growing city was announced at a meeting of the group Friday night.

Some members of the group feel that school authorities have failed to raise and spend enough money for new schools and adequate additions to others.

The North Torrance Fathers' Club was organized, members said, to implement a recent action by the Perry PTA, which adopted a resolution protesting the return of the fourth grades to double sessions when school officials found that enrollment exceeded expectations.

**State Slack**  
A recent disclosure that California's contribution to education costs has not kept pace with soaring annual income was bitterly attacked by the fathers.

"What is more important to our youngsters and to the future of our country than proper education?" one declared. "There appears to be more money than ever before for every purpose today except the public schools. Millions are needed, not tomorrow, not next year—but now!"

California's Gov. Goodwin Knight said at a Sacramento educators' conference, that California is now short 10,000 classrooms. The fathers pointed to Knight's statement that spending for schools has declined from 3 1/2 per cent to 2 1/2 per cent of overall individual annual income over a 17-year period, while the state's annual income is now the highest in history—\$25,000,000,000.

**Sweeping Crisis**  
In a unanimous resolution for presentation to the PTA, the fathers declared that planning in the "sweeping school crisis" simply was not big enough and that vision, enterprise, broader measures, and even emergency action will be needed to correct it before education of thousands of youngsters on half-day sessions is permanently impaired.

The resolution cited failure of bond issues, insufficient bond issues, delay in spending available funds, and delay in obtaining Federal assistance for the classroom shortage and overcrowded schools.

**Action Demanded**  
Fathers demanded emergency measures to provide full-day sessions for all pupils, declaring that temporary housing would make it possible as it has in some other cities.

A letter from the Torrance school board, stating in part, "we should be thankful for what we have," adopted a negative approach, fathers felt, and failed to show broad-scale planning required.

Fathers said the western migration of people was a good thing and to meet it, "we must raise our sights considerably in planning."

**More Needed**  
"There is no doubt that a great deal has been done," the resolution concluded. "The point is that if twice as much had been done, there would be classrooms adequate for the current enrollment for full-day sessions throughout, instead of 1/2-day sessions and overcrowded classrooms, with no vision for continuing in-crease."

## Beach Students in Local School

Opposition to petitions asking that children in the portion of the El Nido tract recently annexed by Redondo Beach be allowed to attend Redondo schools was expressed by the Redondo School Board Wednesday night.

The children in the area now attend Torrance schools. The area lies east of Inglewood Ave. between 182nd and 190th Sts., and west of the railroad right-of-way. In former county territory, it was recently annexed by Redondo Beach.

Redondo board members expressed doubt that the 134 signatures were "an honest reflection of the people," claiming that the signatures were obtained by an employee of the Torrance Unified School District.

**Long Dispute**  
Local school officials acknowledged that a local school official had spurred the drive to get signatures, after repeated unsuccessful attempts to get Redondo schools to accept jurisdiction over the territory. The petitions, however, were certified and circulated by Mrs. Thomas Griffin, of 2716 W. 182nd Pl.

Cromwell Warner, Jr., Redondo school board member, declared that the petitions were "very flattering" but said the addition of the area would create a heavy burden on Redondo, which is trying to end double sessions.

Torrance schools also are burdened with double sessions, some of them for children in the fourth and fifth grades, while Redondo schools are on double session only through the third grade at some schools.

**Shop For Children**  
"We have an obligation to the people whose children we already have and whose taxes have supported our schools," Warner said. "I don't feel we should go out and shop for children."

Redondo Superintendent Harry P. McCandless said that if the El Nido territory were taken into the Redondo School district, another school would be necessary. Local officials estimated that about 100 children from the tract are now attending El Nido School, with an additional of perhaps 200 more when the tract is completely developed.

Mrs. Griffin said she believed

a majority of the people in the area felt that since they live in Redondo Beach, the children should go to school there. A school site is right across the street from many of the homes, she said, and residents feel that if the area becomes a part of the Redondo school district, a new school will be built.

**Residents Confused**  
While she personally was aware of the confused school situation when she bought her home, Mrs. Griffin said many residents did not realize that their children would go to Torrance schools when they moved in.

Meanwhile, there is agitation among some residents in the tract to withdraw from Redondo Beach and annex to Torrance.

The Board of Supervisors will decide school jurisdiction over the area, with a public hearing on the matter set at 10:30 a.m. on Dec. 13. The county superintendent of schools will make a recommendation.

If the board action were that the children should go to Redondo Beach schools, the change would not become effective until September, 1956. Some observers think that supervisors may call an election in the area in question.

Torrance schools also are educating children in the remainder of the El Nido tract, which is still county territory. Some residents of that territory still favor annexation to Torrance.



A GOOD, GOOD NEIGHBOR . . . Emece Bill Evans (left) and Ralph Morris, chairman of the YMCA Board of Directors, congratulate Mrs. Ila Mae Ambach on her selection as the Torrance YMCA's Good Neighbor. A great-grandmother, Mrs. Ambach is affectionately known as "Grandma" to the children of her area, and one of her neighbors called her "a motherly angel."

## 700 Attend YMCA Breakfast

Mrs. Ila Mae Ambach, a vivacious lady who says that her hobby is children, Saturday was named Torrance's good neighbor for the year. The award was presented at the YMCA Good Neighbor Breakfast in the Civic Auditorium, which was attended by more than 700 persons.

Mrs. Ambach, who lives with her husband, William, at 2512 Sierra St., is affectionately known as "Grandma" to the 25 children in the immediate neighborhood. They meet her every night as she comes home from work, she says. She has three children, 10 grandchildren, and 16 great-grandchildren of her own.

**Neighbors Nominated**  
She was nominated by eight of her neighbors for her unselfish aid to persons in need and to the children of her area. "She is a motherly angel sent to our street to help young mothers like me," Mrs. Phyllis Oswell declared.

Active in the Rebekahs, Royal Neighbors, and the Moose Lodge, where she belongs to the College of Regents, highest order, she has sold cosmetics for the past 16 years. She is among the top 10 salesmen for her company in the nation.

A native of Texas, she helped to organize the first PTA in that state. She came to California 40 years ago, homesteading in the desert near Yuca Valley. She organized the first school and Sunday School in that now-thriving area.

**Likes Social Work**  
"I've always had a desire to be a social worker, but never had time or money to take the schooling," she declared.

She babysits with children of the neighborhood when parents go out, entertains the youngsters in her home, and offers advice to younger mothers in the area when they need it.

Other persons nominated for the award were Mrs. Verda Hansen, Mrs. Gordon Hamilton, and Dr. Kurt Shery. Mrs. Ambach was chosen by a YMCA board.

**Committee Named**  
Dr. Rollin R. Smith was general chairman for the breakfast. Bill Evans acted as master of ceremonies, assisted by Gil Derouin and Bernard Lee. Other officials were Rev. John Taylor, publicity; A. C. Turner, food; Bill Speck and Ed Raphael, tickets; C. A. Mewborn, awards; and Joe Arnold, equipment.

The pancake breakfast was served by members of Hi-Y and Tri-Hi-Y members at the Torrance 'Y'. Entertainment was furnished by the Torrance Area Youth Band and the Barber Shop Quartet.

## Meeting Called To Study Rabies

Because of the increasing incidence of rabies cases in dogs and in wild life, the California State Chamber of Commerce has called a meeting in San Francisco tomorrow to discuss legislation for the control of rabies in the state.

Dr. Clinton H. Thienes, secretary-treasurer, and Dr. Lewis T. Bullock, member of the executive committee of the Medical Research Assn. of California, have been invited to the meeting. Dr. Bullock will represent the California Medical Assn. and Dr. Thienes the Citizen's Committee for Better Health.

Rabies of epidemic proportions in dogs has spread to wild animals in whom the incidence of the disease is now two and one-half times greater than last year, and the highest it has been since 1946.

Diseased wild animals are now infecting cattle in rising numbers and the need for control of the disease is urgent, officials have declared.

## Girl Hit By Car Sept. 9 Still Critical

Three-year-old Judy Ann Woolheaver, of 19905 Burlin Ave., was listed as still critical Friday afternoon by Harbor General Hospital authorities, 36 days after being hit by a car while crossing Hallison Ave.

The youngster has been unconscious since the accident, hospital officials said.

She suffered a fractured leg and possible fractured skull when hit by an auto driven by Orvin J. Bee, 27, of 19223 Flavian Ave., on Sept. 12. Bee was not held by Torrance police following the mishap.

## Concert Ticket Sale Extended Through Friday

Sale of season tickets for concerts for musical events slated here by the Torrance Area Youth Bands-Artists Concert Series has been extended through Friday, according to Mrs. Jack Baker, chairman.

"We decided to extend the sale beyond the former Oct. 16 deadline so that more people may take advantage of this opportunity," Mrs. Baker stated.

The tickets, which sell for \$3 each, are for admission to concerts featuring Pianist Leonard Pennario on Nov. 21, Cellist Joseph Schuster on Feb. 16, Contralto Claramae Turner on April 10 and the band's 10th Anniversary Concert on May 23.

Winners of scholarships sponsored by the band will be featured at the anniversary concert.

All of the events will be at Civic Auditorium. Ticket information may be obtained by calling the Youth Band office at FA 8-4320.



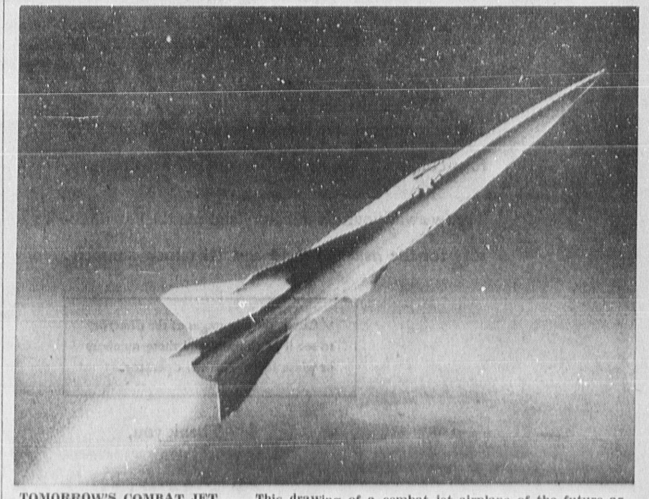
EL CAMINO GRID QUEEN . . . Barbara Fenly of Manhattan Beach was crowned Grid Queen at El Camino at a dance Friday evening. Named to serve as princesses for the queen were Charlotte Craig (left) of Inglewood and Becky Mitchell of Torrance. The queen was chosen by student body balloting during the past two weeks and was not revealed until the dance Friday night.



IN TRAINING . . . Airman Larry O. Quigley, son of Mr. and Mrs. Peary Quigley, of 1543 W. 219th St., is taking electronics, radar and radio training at Keesley Air Force Base, Mississippi, according to his parents. A 1954 graduate of Narbonne High School, he entered the Air Force in April.

## News Index

Torrance High School footballers rallied in the fourth quarter to threaten Ventura here Friday night as the Tartars sought their first pre-league win before conference play opens next week. For details see page 4.	4
Columnist John Morley today asks (and gets the answers to) some vital Far East questions in today's editorial page column. See page 12.	6-7
Other features of today's news may be found on the following pages:	
Sports	4
Society	6-7
Editorial	12
Want Ads	8-11



TOMORROW'S COMBAT JET . . . This drawing of a combat jet airplane of the future as visualized by Ervin R. Heald, aerodynamic design specialist for Douglas Aircraft Co., shows the plane of the future will closely resemble today's guided missiles. Heald told a Society of Automotive Engineers meeting in Los Angeles Friday that a jet capable of flying up to six times the speed of sound at altitudes of 100,000 feet is "not too distant."