

SPECTACULAR BLAZE THREATENS REFINERY, LOSS BELIEVED LOW

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FIREMEN BATTLE OIL BLAZE . . . Torrancia and General Petroleum firemen join forces to battle raging oil fed fire at the Torrancia refinery Thursday morning. A ruptured pressure line in the visbreaking unit caused a jarring explosion which nearby workers described as "sounding like a bomb."



A SIGN DISREGARDED . . . The sign in the foreground apparently meant next to nothing Thursday morning as a score of firemen battled to control a raging oil-fed blaze in one of the fuel cracking furnaces at the GP refinery at 190th and Crenshaw. The burning of straight run fuels caused heavy black smoke to pour into the sky overhead. (The smog men were there on the double.)

COUNCIL ASKS GOVERNOR FOR SPECIAL COURT LAW

Court to Serve 240,000 Sought

A petition to Governor Goodwin J. Knight pointing out that the City of Torrancia is the geographical center of an area containing 240,000 persons, was endorsed by the City Council sitting in an adjourned meeting Thursday in the city's first formal move to have a session of the Superior Court established here.

Acting on the recommendation of Atty. Boris S. Woolley, named by Mayor Isen last spring to head a Court Steering Committee, the Council approved a resolution asking Governor Knight to authorize an emergency item on the agenda for the special session of the legislature for January, 1956, which would permit the establishment of a superior court here.

Now Prohibited At the present time, California law provides that a court cannot be established in a city whose city hall is less than eight miles from the city hall of the closest city having a court.

The law is "wholly unrealistic as applied to the problems of this municipality and other municipalities and county areas that could be served by the establishment of a branch Superior Court in the City of Torrancia," the resolution stated.

Copies of the resolution will be sent to the Governor to Assemblymen Vincent Thomas and Charles Chapel, Senator Richard Richards, and others the Councilmen said.

Dual Barreled Clean-Up Drive Planned by City

A citywide clean-up campaign which would be conducted on two levels has been described by City Manager George Stevens in a memorandum to the members of the City Council.

1. Eliminate the trash and litter that exists at the present time, and
2. Prevent the recurrence of a similar condition.

To accomplish the first phase of the clean-up campaign, Stevens announced that Street Superintendent Ralph Perkins will put crews to work cleaning up the shoulders of Torrancia streets beginning at 190th and Crenshaw beginning Wednesday.

Stevens told the Councilmen at their adjourned meeting Thursday that this operation will take about 15 working days.

"Although this will be a good start, it does not prevent the same situation from recurring," he told the Council.

To accomplish the second phase of the clean-up program, Stevens has asked the Chamber of Commerce to coordinate the various civic groups to participate in a "Clean Up for Christmas Week" program to begin Nov. 27 and to continue through Dec. 2—the night the Christmas season will be welcomed downtown.

The HERALD has pledged its support in the clean-up campaign.

At the same time the city manager's plan was presented to the Council—which heartily endorsed it—letters went out to all of the city's department heads asking them to enlist the aid of their staffs in cleaning up and keeping the city clean.

Appeals to the public for cooperation coupled with the announcement that stiff enforcement of the city's ordinances on the subject are being planned.

The war on "litterbugs" is about to open on all fronts.

Workmen Begin Repair of Unit

General Petroleum refinery workers will begin rebuilding the firm's No. 2 visbreaking unit today following a spectacular fire which threatened the refinery for a short time before noon last Thursday.

The roaring flames which leaped 50 feet into the air at one time were started in the cracking unit furnace of the plant when a high pressure oil tube ruptured spraying hot fuel into the furnace area. The resulting explosion was described by some workers in the refinery as sounding like a bomb explosion.

Three were working in the immediate area at the time, but escaped the blast area without injury.

Three units of the Torrancia Fire Department responded under the direction of Chief J. J. Benner and joined forces with the General Petroleum's firemen in battling the blaze. The firemen were able to confine the flames to the immediate area of the furnace.

Damage Not High Manager Thompson said the damage did not appear as great Saturday as had first been feared. He said the unit should not be out of production "too long" and that the damage should be considerably less than the \$250,000 reported by metropolitan newspapers.

The visbreaking unit was described by Thompson as a series of coiled tubes in a furnace in which the fuels are brought in at pressures around 475 pounds and heated to temperatures exceeding 800 degrees. It was one of these tubes which ruptured causing the fire.

Firemen Praised "The Torrancia Fire Department responded immediately and moved right in with our men to fight the fire," Thompson said. He expressed his gratitude at the efficiency of the department in the matter.

The billowing black smoke which poured from the scene of the fire brought the County Air Pollution Control inspectors to the plant on the double—but they just watched after arriving on the scene.

"If they want to come in and stop the smoke, they are entirely welcome," a stillman told the HERALD photographer.

Parking Committee To Meet With Council A special meeting with the off-street parking committee of the Chamber of Commerce has been scheduled by the City Council for 5 p.m., tomorrow in the City Hall council chambers.

Dean L. Sears, chairman of the committee, requested the meeting.

Other features are as follows: Sports . . . 4.5 Editorials . . . 6 Society . . . 7.8 Classified . . . 9.11

Plans for the gala Pacific Bowl Festival, to be given this Saturday night at Torrancia High School Auditorium, can be found on page 12.

Torrancia's Tartars had to settle for a scoreless tie in their homecoming tilt with Redondo, although they had one touchdown called back. More details are on page 4.

The Council's recommendation to approve the dump operation came after last Tuesday's meeting at which time Councilman Nick Draie, a member of the Sanitation District board of directors, pointed out that Torrancia itself may well be looking for a place to dump its refuse within a few years.

Opposition to the dump site has been voiced by the Walteria Civic Association, and Rolling Hills and Palos Verdes groups have voiced disapproval of the plan. A public hearing on the matter has been scheduled for next Thursday in Los Angeles before the County Zoning Board.

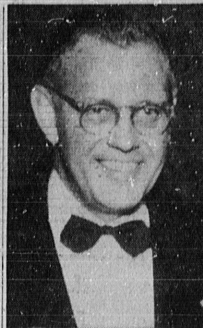
The final decision on the matter will be made by the County Board of Supervisors. Assemblyman Charles Chapel of Inglewood joined the ranks of opponents last week end with the release of his weekly newsletter. He stated that the dump would be a harbor for rats and rodents, that trucks would tear up streets, and that it would take much longer to fill it than estimated by County Sanitation Engineer A. M. Rawns, who has recommended the use of the 160-acre site as one of four large county disposal sites.

The HERALD has pledged its support in the clean-up campaign.

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DR. HOWARD A. WOOD Returned to Scout Job

Harbor District Scouts Re-elect Dr. H. A. Wood

Dr. Howard Wood was unanimously re-elected to serve his third term as chairman of the Harbor District Boy Scout council at an impressive recognition banquet held last week, at the Hacienda Hotel in San Pedro, by scout workers.

Honored along with Dr. Wood were scores of area leaders under whose guidance the district has grown to where more than 4000 boys are enrolled in scouting.

Approximately 200 district workers, their wives and civic leaders attended the third annual banquet event.

Dr. Wood was paid tribute for the achievement of his staff during the past year and was presented with a plaque from the district's boy scouts, for his leadership and guidance.

Named to serve with him on the executive staff was another Torrancia physician, Dr. William Casey, who was elected vice chairman. Dean Sears, manager of the Torrancia branch, Bank of America, serves the unit as finance officer.

Pops Pay for Franks Of Sons at Seaside Parents of the two 13-year-old boys arrested in connection with the Sept. 7 vandalism at Seaside School are making full restitution for the \$327 damage, school officials said Friday.

The pair, picked up by Police a few days later, admitted that they had thrown ink on the floors, damaged homemaker equipment, and strewn papers all over the office.

News Index Nearly everybody has some idea about how to cure the smog problem, the Air Pollution Control District reports in an article on page 6 of today's HERALD.

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Council Approves PV Dump Plans

The County Regional Planning Commission has been notified that the City of Torrancia concurs with the application for zone exception to establish a dump south of Pacific Hills in the abandoned Dicalite mine area.

The city's official approval of the variance carried three conditions, however, which should eliminate much of the local opposition if incorporated in the County's consideration:

1. That Hawthorne Blvd., be extended south to Palos Verdes Drive North.

2. That refuse trucks be restricted to using major streets

and highways within the city limits of Torrancia.

3. That all refuse trucks be required to be either of the enclosed type or covered properly to prevent refuse from spilling or blowing from the trucks enroute to the disposal areas.

The Council's recommendation to approve the dump operation came after last Tuesday's meeting at which time Councilman Nick Draie, a member of the Sanitation District board of directors, pointed out that Torrancia itself may well be looking for a place to dump its refuse within a few years.

Our dump north of the new civic center is filling up pretty fast, and with the population increases here, it is going to be filled even faster," he said.

City Manager George Stevens reported that the city's dump site could be filled in less than five years at the present rate.

Opposition to the dump site has been voiced by the Walteria Civic Association, and Rolling Hills and Palos Verdes groups have voiced disapproval of the plan. A public hearing on the matter has been scheduled for next Thursday in Los Angeles before the County Zoning Board.

The final decision on the matter will be made by the County Board of Supervisors. Assemblyman Charles Chapel of Inglewood joined the ranks of opponents last week end with the release of his weekly newsletter. He stated that the dump would be a harbor for rats and rodents, that trucks would tear up streets, and that it would take much longer to fill it than estimated by County Sanitation Engineer A. M. Rawns, who has recommended the use of the 160-acre site as one of four large county disposal sites.

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