

Council Votes to Hold the Line on City Tax Rate

Last Civic Center Jobs Contracted

Proposals to raise city tax rates by 5 cents were nipped in the bud this week when the City Council voted to hold the line with the present tax rate for 1956-57.

The decision of the Council came on the recommendation of City Manager George Stevens who said the city's operating budget could be handled with the present rate because of the unexpected heavy increases in assessed valuation for Torrance.

City Manager Stevens proposed budget called for an increase of 5 cents in general fund taxes — which would be offset slightly by reductions in bond retirement rates. The \$23 million increase in valuations, however, make this unnecessary, he said.

The Council adopted the budget this week following two public hearings. The 1956-57 budget, which went into operation on July 1, calls for expenditures of \$2,775,132. Last year's budget was fixed at \$2,151,327.

Set Rate Later

Formal setting of the tax rates will be done next month when final property assessments and public utility assessments have been received by the city.

In other action this week by the Council, contracts for final touches on the City Hall were awarded, and letters urging the contractors to hurry up with the swimming pool ordered.

Awarded this week were contracts for the carpeting and drapery inside and for a landscaping consultant outside.

Final approval of a new C-3 (solely commercial) zoning for the city was granted also this week.

Another Council action, culminating about two years of hard work by a group of Torrance businessmen, was the passage of a resolution ordering formation of the off-street parking assessment district and setting forth the areas to be improved as parking lots.

Climax Campaign

The resolution caps a campaign carried on by merchants and the Chamber of Commerce to form such a district in Torrance. Chairman Dean Sears of the Chamber of Commerce committee praised those men who had worked on the project during that time.

Money for improving the lots will be advanced through the sale of revenue bonds, which will be repaid from revenues of the lots.

The Council also adopted a policy of allowing city employees with 10 years service to have three weeks vacation.

SIX-YEAR-OLD LAD BATTLES CANCER; FAMILY STANDS BY

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Wants to Join Playmates Soon

By JIM CRUMPACKER

Six-year-old Billy Brasier Jr., will enter the first grade at El Nido School in September, that is if his running battle with cancer can be arrested in time to return the boy, healthy and happy, to his home at 18520 Regina St.

Billy, whose parents, Mr. and Mrs. Billy Brasier Sr., arrived here about four years ago from Oklahoma, first gave signs of being ill when he was just a half-year old. Although it failed to bother him, his family noticed a tumor on his arm when he was about six months. The growth stayed the same until just recently.

Undergoes Operation
His parents said the boy was taken to a San Pedro hospital recently for surgery because the tumor was beginning to enlarge. The senior Brasiers said they had decided to wait until Billy finished his first year in school, last month, before having the operation.

Doctors who performed the operation diagnosed the tumor as malignant and said that some of the diseased tissue still is in the arm, Mrs. Brasier said. He is now quarantined at Children's Hospital, where further study and observation of the boy's arm will be undertaken.

While specialists are pondering the next move in treating young Billy, his brothers and sister are keeping their vigil at home, waiting for his return. Robert, 2½, and twins, Patty and Teddy, 10½ months, are the other Brasier children.

Daily Visit
Billy's dad drives a truck for a local construction firm. He spends all day piloting his truck from street to street, then dashes home to clean up so that he and Mrs. Brasier can trek to the hospital to see Billy Jr. While the parents are gone, Mrs. Rebecca Brasier, young Billy's grandmother, takes care of the other Brasier youngsters.

All the other family members seem to be healthy, Mrs. Brasier said. She disclosed that her father died last fall of lung cancer and that her grandfather was also afflicted with the disease.

Waiting for Billy's return along with his family are his school chums and playmates. They, too, hope he'll be back soon, ready for school and all the other joys of boyhood.

Refinery Blaze Does \$100,000 Damage Sunday

Flames which sent huge clouds of black smoke into the air, attracting hundreds of motorists, did an estimated \$100,000 damage to the Sunset Oil Co.'s local refinery Sunday afternoon.

The fire destroyed 2000 gallons of crude oil and a refining heater, before it could be put under control. The fire started when a crude oil line ruptured, pouring fuel into the flames at the base of the refining heater. It took about 15 minutes to shut off the flow of fuel to the fire.

Eight county fire companies under Battalion Chief William Sutherland were called to the scene. The firemen were able to keep the flames from spreading to two nearby gasoline storage tanks.

Damage was confined to the heating unit of the company's plant at 21000 S. Figueroa.

Crashes Claim Two Lives Here

Two pedestrians, one a 3½-year-old girl, were killed in traffic accidents in the area during the past week, police have reported.

John V. Griffin, 50, of 21178 W. 256th St., Lomita, was run over and killed around 2 a.m. Monday when he was trying to cross 253rd St., near Western Ave. The victim was the brother of William Griffin, who erroneously was reported killed by a car more than a year ago.

In that instance, a Clarence Magness, 41, of 1005 W. 265th St., was the victim but was carrying William Griffin's wallet.

Driver Not Held
The driver of the auto, Chason W. Stephen, 29, of 2906 Winlock Rd., was not held by authorities.

Mass of the angels was said yesterday for Pamela Ann Mazzoni, 3½, of 4203 W. 172nd St., who was struck down and killed by an auto in front of her home Saturday. The tiny girl was hit by an auto driven by James G. Johnson, 51, of 22311 Ellinwood Dr.

Johnson told authorities he was traveling about 3½ miles an hour when the accident occurred. He was not cited.

Father Is Policeman
Services were held yesterday at 8:30 a.m. at St. Catherine Labourer Catholic Church for the youngster. Interment followed in Holy Cross Cemetery.

The girl is survived by her parents, Mr. and Mrs. William A. Mazzoni; a brother, Ronald David; maternal grandmother, Mrs. Ann Igou, of Hermosa; and paternal grandmother, Mrs. Angela C. Mazzoni, of Gardens.

The girl's father is a Los Angeles policeman.

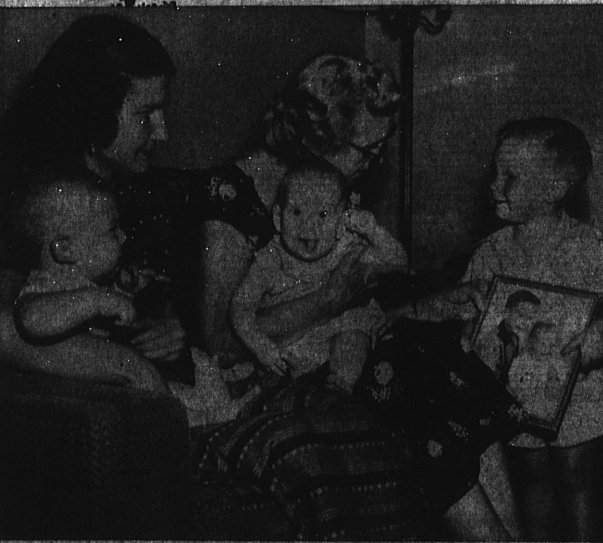


PAMELA ANN MAZZONI
... Tiny Traffic Victim

Twelve In Beauty Show

Twelve girls have signed up to date for the 1956 Miss Torrance contest, according to James Van Dyck, director of the sponsoring Torrance Area Youth Band.

Girls who are candidates include the following: Dolores Alexander, 18; Karen Brunel, 17; Joyce Cannon, 16; Marie Coleman, 17; Betty Haynes, 17; Lynn Lehr, 20; Renee Leamaster, 17; Jeanette Mance, 17; Toni Mance, 18; Jimmie Scott, 23; Anne Thomas, 17, and Gaye Wilson, 18.



WAIT FOR WORD . . . Family of six-year-old Billy Brasier, Jr., admire his picture at home while waiting for information on condition of young cancer victim. Left to right, Mrs. Bill Brasier, Sr., and the youngster's grandmother, Mrs. Rebecca Brasier, look over picture with brother Robert, 2½. Twins Teddy, left, and Patty, 10½ months, are other Brasier children.

HULL RETRACTS CHARGE MADE AGAINST HERALD

Superintendent of Schools J. H. Hull on Tuesday cleared up a mysterious case of mistaken identity that came up at Monday's meeting of the Torrance Educational Advisory Committee.

Hull admitted that his accusation of HERALD Sports Editor Roger Boedecker as author of a controversial note which turned up on his desk was unwarranted. Speaking on the athletic situation at Torrance, Hull had told TEAC members that a note found in his office advocated formation of a boosters group in the city to back athletics and to select coaches for the district.

He cited Boedecker, whom he had never met, as author of the note, but was called on the mistake by another HERALD reporter. Hull failed to clear up the mystery at the meeting, attended by some 100 educational leaders, but called the paper Tuesday to apologize, saying the note was signed by someone else.

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Memorial Rites Monday For Air Disaster Victim

Memorial services for Gerry Fiore, 39, United Air Lines employe who died in the recent crash of two giant airliners in the Grand Canyon, will be held Monday at 10 a.m. at St. James Catholic Church, Redondo.

Services will include recitation of a requiem high funeral mass.

Mr. Fiore was flight engineer on the UAL DC-7 which collided in mid-air with a Trans-World Airlines Super Constellation June 30. The wreckage of the two planes fell about 20,000 feet to the canyon floor. One hundred twenty-eight persons died in the wreck, the worst disaster in commercial aviation history in this country.

He was one of four local victims of the tragedy. Capt. Robert F. Shirley, of 585 Via Del Monte, Palos Verdes; Chester Arnold Crews, 48, of 18421 Mansel, and his daughter, Helen Colleen, 15, of the same address, were others who perished in the mishap. Capt. Shirley was the pilot of the United plane, while the Crewses were passengers on the TWA plane.

Mr. Fiore, who lived at 24233 Ward St., is survived by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Santolo Fiore of the local address; two brothers, John and Mario, and two sisters, Anna and Teresa.

Merchant Group City Engineer Approves Plans For New Signals

Board of Directors of the Retail Merchants Assn. voted yesterday morning to award a contract for the promotion of the downtown shopping area in all fields of communications to the Eisaman-Johns Agency of Los Angeles.

President Charles Gotts was authorized to sign the contract, which will back a series of promotional projects to be undertaken by the agency.

The board also approved the renting of 24 billboards in and around the Torrance area for use in promotion of the downtown district. According to a spokesman, the signs will direct shoppers to the downtown area and will be erected within 30 days.

Soldier Finishes Class

Pvt. Harry L. Biggins, son of Mrs. Marie L. Hedstrom, 1837 W. 253rd St., Lomita, recently was graduated from the line-man's course at the Army's Southeastern Signal School, at Fort Gordon, Ga.

Biggins entered the Army last February and received basic training at Fort Ord. He is a 1955 graduate of Narbonne High School.



AT HEIGHT OF BLAZE . . . Firemen from eight companies battled flames at Sunset Oil's Torrance refinery Sunday afternoon after a fuel line ruptured on one of the plant's heating units. Here fire fighters pour water into unit to control flames shortly after fire broke out. Men of Co. 36 on Carson St. heard the explosion, reported to the fire immediately.



GETS JAYCEE GAVEL . . . Dale Stanton, new president of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce (right), receives gavel of office from former State President Phil Knox during ceremonies Saturday night at the Palos Verdes Country Club. Knox also installed Mrs. Charles Herran as Jaycees president.