

Council Reverses Zone Vote; Freezes All M-Zones

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ONE HELD FOR SCHOOL ARSON

Flames Cause Much Damage To Facility

BULLETIN

A 15-year-old Torrance youth has been jailed on charges of arson and police have launched an intensive search for his companion in connection with the fire which heavily damaged the Carl Steele Elementary School early Tuesday. Arrested by juvenile officers under the direction of Lt. Gus Rethwisch yesterday evening was Jimmy Dale Britton, who gave his address as 20022 Ingrum Way. He formerly attended Leuzinger High School and had resided in Torrance about six months, police said. The second arrest was expected momentarily late yesterday.

By DARRELL MADDOX
Herald Staff Writer

Vandals broke into the Carl Steele Elementary School at 19300 Inglewood Ave. nearly Tuesday morning where they caused about \$50,000 in damage by setting a fire which gutted one building.

They also broke into 16 of 23 classrooms where they removed desk drawers and threw the contents on the lawn, smeared desks, blackboards and other furniture with ink.

Entry was gained to the various school rooms by breaking

some of the windows. Some windows were removed by taking fresh putty from around the windows.

The cafeteria and school rooms in a wing which faced the rear of houses fronting on Narrot Street were untouched. Makeshift classes were held Tuesday in the cafeteria.

In Room 5 of Wing C the suspects piled papers in a heap on the floor just inside the door. They then pulled a wooden book case against the pile and set fire to it but police officers said the fire had burned out when they arrived.

The blaze was reported at 4:20 a.m. A kindergarten wing was gutted and a room in another wing badly damaged by fire.

In the office building the suspects used a knife or letter opener to scrape "Jim" on the door of a hot water heater located in a hallway leading from the main office to a coffee room.

A letter opener was found sticking in the door of the coffee room. Inside of the office was heavily damaged with water on the floor, partially eaten candy bars scattered about and typewriter ribbons pulled out of the typewriters.

Cyclists Hurt in Crashes

Two young bicyclists were injured last weekend in separate accidents.

Gregory T. Thompson, 13, of 5520 Calle Mayor, suffered minor injuries and was taken to Little Company of Mary Hospital Sunday after his bicycle was involved in a collision with a sedan driven by Franklin Burke McRae, 55, of 2624 Via Riviera.

The accident occurred about 12:33 p.m. on Calle Mayor south of Pacific Coast Highway.

In the other accident, Floyd Edward Loew, 12, Gardena, was treated for major injuries at the same hospital after his bicycle collided with a parked car about 5:28 p.m. Sunday in front of 4122 Arista Blvd.

The accident was reported to Harvey T. or Lois E. Deary of Bel. Loew is a student at St. Anthony's school in Gardena.

Land Survey Ordered for Council Study

Rezoning of a 5-acre parcel of land in the Victor Tract to permit apartment construction was denied by the City Council Tuesday night, reversing a decision to zone voted a week earlier. At the same time, the Council put a six-month freeze on all manufacturing land in the city and ordered an economic survey of the remaining land for the council's consideration.

Tuesday's decision to deny the petition of Dan E. Butcher to rezone the Victor Tract parcel followed a hour-long hearing at which it was determined that Butcher was entitled to a prompt decision on his request.

The council on March 6 had voted to table the matter for 90 days, voted March 20 to approve the zoning, and then reversed that vote in the face of protests this week.

CHARLETON Mewborn, representing Butcher before the Council Tuesday, protested the council's proposal to reverse its earlier approval, saying "there is no right in justice, in law, or in equity to change this decision."

Mewborn earlier had reviewed the case, giving dates for the hearings before the Planning Commission and City Council, and then telling the council he believed Butcher was entitled to a decision. He was supported by City Attorney Stanley Remelmeyer.

After discussing the matter at length, the council voted 5-2 to deny Butcher's petition. Councilmen Willys Blount and George Bradford opposed the denial.

ON THE HEELS of the denial, the council voted to freeze all land in the city

zoned for manufacturing for a period of six months, and instructed City Manager Wade Peebles to have a study made of the city's remaining industrial property.

Peebles said a new planning director should be on the job in a short time, and that such a study could be presented to the council within six months.

IN OTHER Council action, a new contract with the Southern California Humane Society to provide pound service was approved. "Old Lomita Boulevard" near Hawthorne Avenue was vacated, final tract maps for 174 homes in the Walteria Lake area were approved for developer Don Wilson, and a claim filed by George Broome, 1565 W. 221st St., for damages resulting from an accident was denied.

'Buy Out' Offer Charged to Deck

Charges that Charles Deck, candidate for the city clerk's office at the April 10 municipal election, had offered to refund printing costs for candidates who might withdraw from the race were tossed out before the City Council Tuesday night by several candidates opposing Deck.

James G. Shidler led off by telling councilmen he had received a "written cash offer of one hundred dollars if I would withdraw from the race for city clerk."

Vernon Coil, a strong contender for the city clerk's office, submitted a copy of a similar letter he had received from Deck.

Deck, in the audience at the time, acknowledged that he had sent the letters, saying the Torrance Property Owners Assn. which he heads had money in his account for such purposes.

"It is well known fact most of them have their names in there to publicize their businesses," Deck said.

"I wrote all the candidates a little note saying I would be willing to talk to them if they'd withdraw," he said. "I did not offer them any specific amount of money."

In his letter to Coil which was filed with City Attorney Stanley Remelmeyer, Deck said:

"I am willing to refund the printing costs for any of the candidates which feel a desire to withdraw and thus save most of the expenses incurred."

Remelmeyer was instructed to research the laws on the matter after Shidler asked that the City Council disapprove the practice, and draft legislation to prevent such to occur if the laws do not now exist.

Polio Clinics Slated Today

Three Torrance hospitals are having Polio clinics from 4 through 6 p.m. today.

They are Little Company of Mary, 4101 Torrance Blvd.; Riviera Community, 4205 W. 226th St., and Torrance Memorial at 1425 Engracia St.



INSPECT DAMAGE . . . Principal John Kasser (left) and S. E. Waldrip, assistant superintendent, inspect gutted kindergarten unit at Carl Steele School after firemen controlled the blaze in the pre-dawn hours Tuesday. Value of the unit was placed at \$40,000, but extent of damage is still undetermined, although admittedly heavy. (Herald Photo)



EXTRA-CURRICULAR DUTY . . . Students reporting for school early Tuesday found themselves on clean-up details as school and fire officials made a frantic effort to open classes at Carl Steele School a few hours after a damaging fire. Classes convened at 9 a.m. and "no one missed a minute of school," officials reported. (Herald Photo)

College Honor List Cites 56 From Here

Two Torrance students carrying straight "A" averages and 54 others with outstanding grades have been enrolled as members of Alpha Gamma Sigma, El Camino College scholastic honorary association.

Announcement of the selection, which included 10 "A" students and 285 others on the campus, was made yesterday by Jeanne Garrison, faculty advisor to the scholastic organization.

ADMITTED on the basis of their top performances were Clifford Hersey and Ellen

Johnson, both listed as "A" students.

Others from Torrance admitted to the organization included Karen Alden, Janice Armbruster, Glenda Ballentine, Eric Bauer, William Buchanan, William Capps, Bobby Cotton, Carolyn Curry, Marian Daniels, Roger Dennis, Francis Erbs, Jay Fisher, Mary Florez, Judith Hagen, Gerrit Harinck, Shirlee Hendrix, James Hall, and Joanne Isbell.

ALSO ADMITTED were Richard Johnson, Rudolph Johnson, Duane Kustic, Melva Larson, Gerald LaVerne, Vir-

Inside The Herald

AFTER HOURS	30
AMUSEMENTS	46
ARMED FORCES	9
ROYCE BRIER	32
DEATHS	2
DELAFLANE	2
JAMES DORAIS	30
EDITORIALS	30
GARDEN CHECKLIST	48
ART HOPPE	30
REYNOLDS KNIGHT	49
ANN LANDERS	17
LEGAL NOTICES	35-38
REG MANNING	30
JOHN MORLEY	30
MORNING REPORT	30
OBITUARIES	2
O'FLAHERTY	10
PUBLIC NOTICES	35-38
SCOUT NEWS	2
SOCIETY	17-19
SPORTS	54-55
STAR GAZER	37
TELEVISION	10
TRAVEL	30
WANT ADS	38-44
MARY WISE	21, 24

A Penny for your Thoughts

"Of the teenagers that smoke, why do you think they do so?" the Pennies photographer asked.

Mrs. Frank Lane, 1531 El Prado Ave.:

"I think they smoke because they want to prove they have grown up. Of course they see adults smoke and this is an adult symbol."

Mrs. Robert Stize, Lawndale:

"I think the main reason is to do something on the sly and to be sneaky. I'd rather see them smoke at home than on the sly. It's all right for boys but not girls."

Mrs. Harry L. Stevens, 2550 Pacific Coast Hwy.:

"I think they imitate their parents. They are inclined to do anything their parents do. Parents are the biggest factor. You very seldom see a child smoking whose parents don't."

Mrs. Lyle Williams, Palos Verdes Estates:

"I think they smoke just to look big. The main idea is that they just want to look grown up. It probably makes them pretty sick. I think teenagers who are not disciplined do most of the smoking."

May Vincent, 1939 Pacific Coast Hwy., Lomita:

"Many of the teenagers who smoke just to feel grown up. Some follow the crowd also I guess. I think about 17 or 18 is early enough for them to start smoking."

Kurtz Given Herald Support As Councilman

Attorney George Kurtz today receives the endorsement of the HERALD in his campaign to be elected to the Torrance City Council.

In an editorial published today on Page 30, the HERALD outlines the qualifications of Mr. Kurtz and gives the reason for his endorsement.

In previous editorials, the HERALD has recommended the re-election of Albert Isen as mayor, and has recommended the election of Ken Miller to one of the City Council seats at stake in the April 10 municipal election.



REIGNING BEAUTIES . . . Blonde Bobbet King (center), 17, a South High School student, is reigning this week as "Miss Torrance" following her selection here in judging at the Del Amo Center. Runners-up were Myra McCartney (left), 18, North High student; and Judi McTee, 17, Torrance High student.