

Cowboys and Engines by Irwin Caplan



Almost 60% of the deaths occurred at night.

Water Tax Rate Drops To 14 Cents

Taxpayers got welcome news from the directors of the Metropolitan Water District this week. The board authorized a one cent reduction in the district's tax rate.

The new rate will be 14 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation. It is the lowest tax rate the district has set since 1934-35.

The reduction was the 12th such reduction in the last 13 years, and was made possible because of increased revenues from water sales.

Taxes in the district were at an all-time high in 1946-47, when the rate was 50 cents per \$100 valuation. Despite the continued reduction, the district has carried forward a \$220 million aqueduct expansion program.

Isbell Joins Drale Realty As Associate

L. Milton Isbell, former executive secretary of the Torrance YMCA and since a Torrance appliance dealer and real estate salesman, has joined Nick Drale Real Estate and Insurance as an associate, it was announced here this week by Drale.

Isbell will be in charge of the real estate department of the firm, Drale said. He is a past president and an active member of the Torrance Lions Club, and maintains an active role in YMCA affairs.

Birth Defects Clinic Opens in Los Angeles

New hope for many of an estimated 9,000 infants born crippled in this community and throughout the county each year was assured yesterday with the formal opening of the March of Dimes Birth Defects Clinic at Los Angeles Orthopaedic Hospital.

An estimated 300 civic, government, medical and business leaders from this community and many sections of California, Arizona and Nevada attended the ceremonies.

The clinic is one of a nationwide network supported by the March of Dimes now being established to meet head-on what physicians call the "greatest unmet childhood medical problem today," according to Robert A. Wilkinson, Prudential Insurance Co. executive and chairman of the Los Angeles National Foundation—March of Dimes chapter.

THE CLINIC is the first of its kind in the Southwestern United States and is now open to all children in this area who suffer with one or more of the 600 malformations which can occur before birth.

These malformations occur in one of every 16 babies born each year, according to the famous MacIntosh study published in the authoritative Pediatrics medical journal.

"Although no official statistics on these births are recorded in the county, the report indicates that about 80,000 of the 1,275,000 babies born here during the past 10 years have needed medical treatment for congenital deformities," according to Wilkinson.

OF THESE cases, approximately 450 have been admitted to various separate departments of the hospital annually in the past. Under March of Dimes clinic procedures, birth defects sufferers now receive treatment under the supervision of an integrated team of medical scientists and paramedical experts.

Principal member of the

clinic team is an experienced specialist in the types of birth defects with which the child is afflicted. Available to the clinic are nearly 200 physicians and surgeons, each an expert in one or more types of birth defect.

Other members include the medical director, and authorities in rehabilitation, social work, clinical psychology, radiology, physical and occupational therapy and others as the need arises.

THE ENTIRE facilities of the hospital are available to the clinic. Included are the departments of orthopaedic, neurologic, plastic, general and oral surgery; ophthalmology, otology, biology, biostatistics, genetics, dentistry and all laboratories.

The clinic is under the overall direction of Dr. J. Vernon Luck, immediate past president of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons and member of the United States government National Advisory Council on Vocational Rehabilitations. Dr. Robert Mazet is assistant director.

It is operated under an annual March of Dimes grant of \$40,000 to the hospital. Services are available to all, regardless of race, religion or family financial condition. A total of 1,500 patients are expected to pass through the clinic during its first year of operation.

Information may be obtained from the March of Dimes, 2635 Griffith Park Blvd., Los Angeles 39; or, March of Dimes Clinic, Orthopaedic Hospital, 2400 S. Flower St., Los Angeles 7.

Harvey Aluminum Sets Dividend

The Board of Directors of Harvey Aluminum, Inc., yesterday declared a dividend of 30 cents per share on the A common stock. The dividend will be payable Sept. 30 to stockholders or record Sept. 12.

District History Reviewed

(Continued from Page 1) with a high school, a surplus of \$70,000 was recorded on a budget of nearly \$834,000.

It cost 23 cents per hour to educate a child in that first year, and the grade system was switched from the old 6-3-3 to the present kindergarten through eighth grade elementary school. When the district took over Torrance High in 1948, it became a four-year school.

IN 1950, THE federal census figures revealed a population of more than 22,000 in Torrance, and the district's enrollment jumped to 4,000 — a 100 per cent increase in two years.

Torrance began to feel the real effects of the population explosion in Southern California early in 1953. Enrollment jumped from 6,000 to 7,500 to 9,600 in the 1953-54 school year. Housing tracts sprang up like weeds throughout the city, and by 1955 more than 15,800 children were in school in the city.

The district kept pace with the increases for awhile. Bonded to its limit—10 per cent of the assessed valuation—it built new elementary schools and expanded Torrance High School, and kept costs down.

S. E. WALDRIP, now assistant superintendent of schools, recalls his first year in the district. "I came here in 1955 and 4,000 students were on double sessions, by 1957, seven new elementary schools and a new high school were open, and 4,500 students on double sessions."

Today, the Torrance Unified School District has 30,000 students in 33 elementary schools and four high schools. Its budget for 1962-63, with reserves, is \$15.8 million. Still, the cost per hour is only 33 cents per student. By 1970, between 37,500 and 40,000 children will be in the school district.

THE PROBLEM is simple. Thirty-seven schools will not hold 40,000 children. Money from the last bond election in

1958 is now fully committed for schools needed within the next two years.

Since it takes 18 months to plan for an elementary school, the district must begin planning now for the expected increases in 1965-66 and beyond.

Consequently, the Board of Education has called a bond election for Sept. 18, and is asking the authorization to sell \$8 million in bonds to finance new schools. The money, Albert Charles, board president, points out, will be used only as needed, and it is further limited by the state law.

BONDS authorized now will not affect the tax rate, says Charles, for the district is bonded to its limit of 10 per cent of the valuation and cannot sell bonds unless it retires outstanding bonds.

School officials point out that school bonds are similar to house mortgages — as a man buys a house and pays for it as he lives in it, so the school district builds schools and pays for them while using them.

New students and new buildings mean no double sessions, while an end to the building program means returning to double sessions. There have been no double sessions in Torrance for two years, and the hope is that there will be none.

Register Now for Technical Classes

Sixty-one technical courses will be offered in the evening division of Harbor College during the fall semester beginning Sept. 17, according to an announcement by George Rainey, chairman of the applied technology division.

The technical areas in which classes will be given include automation (the science of maintenance and installation of automatic measuring devices), chemical technology, electronics, engines, machine shop, petroleum processing, and printing.

Obituaries

KARL A. BEASER
Funeral services for Karl A. Beaser, 77, of 1005 Sartori Ave., will be held today at 2 p.m. at the Halverson-Leavell Mortuary. The Rev. H. Milton Sippel will officiate.

Mr. Beaser, a resident of Torrance for 21 years, was employed at the National Supply Co. until his retirement. He died last Monday at a local hospital.

Survivors include the wife, Eugenia, of the home; and brothers, Sydney and both of Virginia.

Interment will be in Hills Memorial Park.

WILLIE H. COLEMAN
Funeral services for Willie H. Coleman, 75, will be held at the Halverson-Leavell Mortuary.

A native of Tennessee, Coleman has lived in gees county for 37 years and died at a Los Angeles Tuesday.

Survivors include Thomas of Torrance; George of Whittier; two sisters, Virginia Allen and Willmon; a sister, Sue; and a brother, Linton.

Interment will be in Hills Memorial Park.

WILLIAM HOPE
Funeral services for William Hope, 41, of 22616 Denker Ave., were held yesterday at the Church of the Hills in Forest Lawn Memorial Park, Hollywood Hills.

A native of Ohio, Mr. Hope had lived in Torrance for 10 years. He died in a Duarte hospital last Saturday. He was a veteran of World War II, and a member of the IAM Lodge 720.

Mr. Hope is survived by his widow, Freda; a son, William John Hope III; three daughters, Mrs. Margaret Readon, Ester M. Hope, and Beverly A. Hope; a brother, and two sisters.

Interment was in Forest Lawn Memorial Park, Hollywood Hills.

MAUD BELLE THIEMAN
Funeral services for Maud Belle Thiemann, 61, of 27212 Sunnyridge Road, Rolling Hills, will be held tomorrow at 1 p.m. at the Halverson-Leavell Chapel.

Mrs. Thiemann is survived by her husband, Kenneth, of the home; two brothers, Richard Rundle of North Hollywood, and Ralph Rundle of Missouri; and four sisters, Vivian Lincoln of Arcadia, Sora Viering of Los Angeles, Evelyn Squier of Palos Verdes Estates, and Mable Fitzgerald of Arcadia.

Interment will be in Green Hills Memorial Park.

EVA PEARL NASH
Funeral services for Eva Nash, 49, of 20512 S. Berendo, will be held today at 11 a.m. at the Halverson-Leavell Chapel. The Rev. Mr. Reed will officiate.

Mrs. Nash, a native of Tennessee, died yesterday. Surviving Mrs. Nash are her husband, Louis; a son, Donnie of Torrance; her mother, Dossie Rice of Lakewood; her father, Gabriel Rice of Virginia; four sisters, Edith Harwell of Torrance, Gladys Pugh of Lakewood, Julia Scruggs of Hawthorne, and Gladie Leverette of North Carolina; and three brothers, Ed Rice of Hawthorne, Beverly Rice of Virginia, and Herbert Rice of Artesia.

Interment will be in the Danville, Va., Memorial Gardens.

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