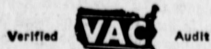


5-2 Council Fires City Manager

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The School Tax
Pro and Con
(Editorial, Page 10)

51st Year — No. 9



OFFICE AND PLANT, 1619 GRAMERCY AVE. — TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, JANUARY 30, 1964

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TWO KILLED IN CITY TRAFFIC

A Penny for your Thoughts

The Pennies photographer asked some of the people involved in a bicycle safety program at Wood Elementary School, "What are the benefits of the program?"

Mrs. Jody Liuzza, 2355 W. 235th Place:

"The safety tests help the children to keep their bikes in good condition and make sure their bikes are the right size. The whole project helps mothers and fathers to take a role in making sure the children are good bicycle riders."

Sally Lassere, 2410 W. 229th St.:

"The program lets the kids know what they have to do when they are riding bicycles. Starting when they are in the lower grades gets them off to a good start and they know they will have to follow the rules."

Dick DeArmitt, 5102 Pacific Coast Hwy.:

"The main thing is to get the kids to be safety conscious when they are riding their bikes. We bring the class out here, explain each obstacle and then put them through it until they understand what is required. The program has been very successful."

Nancy Davis, 2365 W. 235th Place:

"It is a benefit in that the kids learn what to do when they are on their bikes. The program made a much better bike rider out of me because it impressed upon me the need and importance of always obeying the safety rules."

Keith Olson, 2334 W. 231st St.:

"I am learning the safety rules and I think that is the most important part of the program. I know the rules and the firemen have told me how important it is that I obey the rules. I am not going to goof off when I ride my bicycle."

Peebles Can Ask Council For Hearing

A progress report authored by Deputy Attorney General Jack Goertzen was cited by city councilmen Tuesday as the reason they voted 5-2 to dismiss City Manager Wade Peebles from his \$21,000-a-year post with the city. Peebles, who charged that the report was slanted and biased against him, said after the Tuesday night meeting that he did not know whether he would appeal for a hearing if the Council's orders are put into effect by resolution next Tuesday.



WADE E. PEEBLES

The dismissal action was brought up by Councilman Nick Draie at the end of a lengthy meeting Tuesday night when he said "I have an unfortunate task here to perform."

DRAIE, WHO had been in Sacramento to attend meetings of the State Board of Public Works relative to selection of a college site for this area, said he had not received a copy of his report but that "Mr. Beasley was kind enough to give it to my wife and I went over it thoroughly with my wife."

Draie said there were innuendos in the report that "concern me seriously."

Palos Verdes Site Selected For College

Purchase of 200 acres of research and development land on the Palos Verdes Peninsula was ordered Monday in Sacramento. The land will become the permanent site of the California State College at Palos Verdes.

A unanimous vote by the State Board of Public Works ended more than 18 months of prolonged controversy over where the college would be located. While appraisals of the site were not released, Hale Champion, chairman of the board, indicated the \$5 million available would be sufficient. The site includes 50 acres of land owned by the Northrop Division of the Northrop Corp. and an adjoining 150 acres which is owned by the Great Lakes Carbon Corp.

TORRANCE WAS represented at the meeting by Councilman Nicholas Draie. Draie asked for appraisals on the Peninsula site, but could not get them. Champion said releasing the figures was against policy and might complicate negotiations for actual purchase of the land. The board did receive a written report (Continued on Page 2)

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DRAIE'S MOTION to dismiss Peebles from his post came after a 15-minute personal session held by the Council behind closed doors at the close of Tuesday's Council meeting.

Councilman George Vico asked to let Peebles be heard. "In all fairness to Mr. Peebles, we shouldn't jump to conclusions," Vico said. He voted to support Draie's dismissal motion.

Councilman Ken Miller asked to substitute a motion to call for suspension of Peebles rather than dismissal, until a hearing could be arranged. He could get no second to the motion, and he, too, voted to order the dismissal resolution.

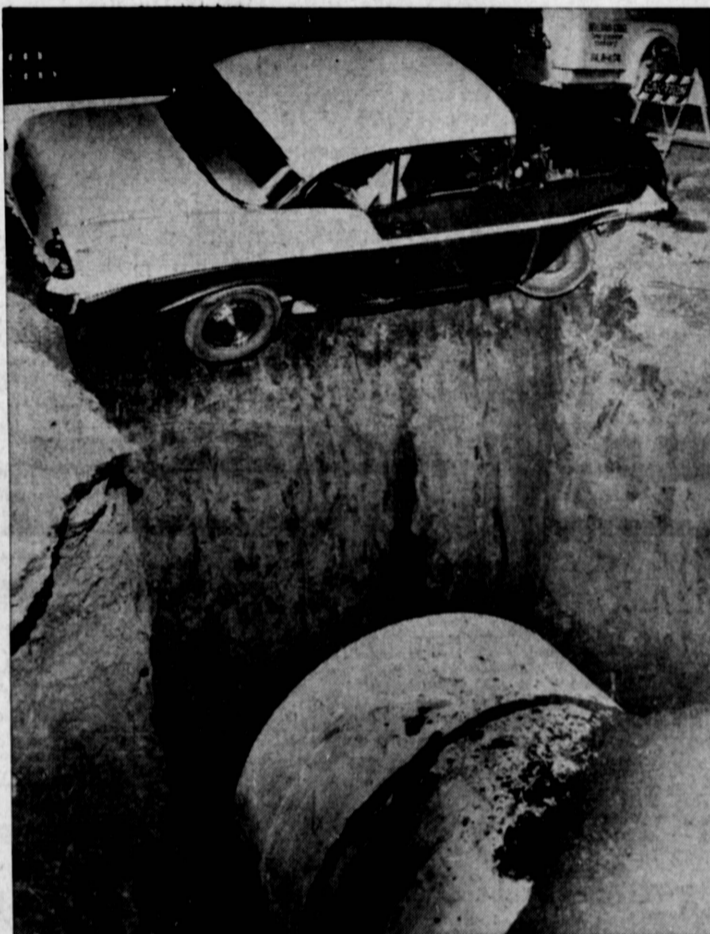
MAYOR ALBERT Isen said a hearing conducted before the same City Council that ordered his firing would be "in the nature of a kangaroo court." He said the dismissal was politically motivated, that it cast a cloud against a man who had worked his heart out for the city, and that there was nothing in the report to indicate any moral turpitude on the part of Peebles "if anybody should be thinking that."

Councilman Victor E. Benstead told The Herald yesterday that he thought the "whole deal is political and I don't care who knows it."

ONLY BENSTEAD and Isen voted against the dismissal motion.

"It was wrong to begin with and it's still wrong," Benstead said. "We should have waited for the other reports. The investigation was supposed to have been about the police de-

(Continued on Page 2)



DEATH PIT . . . Stephen Wayne Sterlachini, 8, of 1320 Rolling Knolls Walk, Harbor City, was killed Tuesday night when a car driven by Monte Ray Cloward, 30, of 1312 Rolling Knolls Walk, crashed through wooden barriers at Lomita Boulevard and Early Street and narrowly missed falling into a construction pit. Cloward was booked on felony manslaughter. (Herald Photo)

Driver Held After Youth Dies in Auto

Two Torrance traffic fatalities were recorded in separate accidents Tuesday night.

Dead are Mrs. Clyta Maude Howard, 51, of 2732 Arlington Ave., and Stephen Wayne Sterlachini, 8, son of Mrs. Patricia Terrebrood, 1320 Rolling Knolls Walk, Harbor City.

Failure to heed the warning lights and bell at a railroad crossing apparently cost Mrs. Howard her life, according to Harbor Division police officer Billie Pearcy.

MRS. HOWARD was crushed inside her car when it was struck by a switch engine on the Santa Fe Railway track on Western Avenue south of Sepulveda Boulevard. The engine, pulling two freight cars and traveling an estimated 15 miles per hour, dragged the car 180 feet.

Firemen took 20 minutes extricating Mrs. Howard. She was pronounced dead on arrival at Harbor General Hospital.

Young Sterlachini was killed when the car in which he was a passenger crashed into a construction ditch at Lomita Boulevard and Early Street.

MONTE RAY Cloward, 30, of 1312 Rolling Knolls Walk, driver of the car, was booked on felony manslaughter.

Police said he was drunk and driving at high speed on Lomita Boulevard when he lost control and smashed through wood barriers into the ditch.

Cloward was treated for minor injuries at Little Company of Mary Hospital where the child was pronounced dead on arrival.

FUNERAL services for Mrs. Howard will be held at the Halverson-Leavell Mortuary Chapel at 10 a.m. Friday with the Rev. John Gunn of West Covina officiating. Interment will be in Westminster Memorial Park.

She is survived by her husband Tom; two sons, Donald of El Monte and Thomas of San Pedro; a brother Pat, and a sister, Louise Edwards, of Los Angeles. Also surviving are four grandchildren.

Annual Jaycee Charity Circus Slated in March

The third annual Junior Chamber of Commerce Charity Circus will be held March 21 and 22 at the corner of Hawthorne Avenue and Spencer Street.

The two-ring circus will be staged by DeWayne Brothers Circus. The 1,000-seat tent show will have two performances each day. Benefactor of the circus this year will be "Operation Straightchild" according to spokesmen for the Jaycees.

Officers Question Juvenile

Twelve-year-old Kathleen Petty was found unharmed in downtown Redondo Beach shortly after noon yesterday after Torrance police had received a telephone tip.

The girl, missing since 4 p.m. Sunday from her home at 1667 Gramercy Ave., was spotted by officer Ray Silagy after he and juvenile officer Gus Rethwisch rushed to Redondo Beach. She was taken into custody by the officers and returned to the Torrance Police Station.

Officers were still questioning the girl late yesterday afternoon.

The Sunday disappearance recalled memories of the disappearance of two other Torrance girls. Karen Lynn Thompkins, who was last seen in August, 1961, has never been found. A second girl, Dorothy Gale Brown, disappeared in July, 1962. Her body was later found but no clues have been uncovered in the apparent kidnap-murder case.

Early speculation that the Petty girl might be a kidnap victim apparently had no support. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Petty.

The girl disappeared Sunday after telling an older brother she was going to visit a neighbor "for a few minutes." She was not seen again until police picked her up in Redondo yesterday.

Evidence seems to indicate the girl ran away from home, according to officers. Rethwisch said the girl would probably be taken to juvenile hall after officers had finished their questioning.

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The Tax Override

Opposition: The Case Against A Tax Hike

(Note: This is the fourth of several articles which The HERALD will publish on the forthcoming tax override election called by the Torrance Unified School District. The series will examine the reasons behind the override election in an attempt to present all the facts surrounding the election. The final article of this series will be published in the Sunday editions.)

BY JERRY REYNOLDS
Herald Staff Writer

Torrance voters are coming down to the wire. They face a decision on the much publicized tax override next Tuesday—a decision that will have a definite effect on the Torrance schools regardless of the outcome.

As is usual with such elections there has been opposition. In some cases, it is ill-defined; in others, it is marginal. But the opposition is not without some valid and significant points. It is the purpose of today's article to examine that

opposition—to discover what is being said and why it is being said.

Opposition to the tax override is divided into roughly three groups. There are many who disagree only with the amount or the term of the proposed increase in the school tax. Others oppose the measure because they do not see a real need for an increase in taxes, or because they see the local property owner as an already overburdened taxpayer. Finally, there are the anti-Hull and the anti-board people who appeal to emotions rather than sound and logical examinations of school financing.

THE LAST group is perhaps the easiest to analyze. There are few people who do not recall days when it was claimed that a weak board of education served merely as a rubber stamp for a strong superintendent of schools. But times have changed.

There is still a strong superintendent, as there should be. There is also a strong board.

The two often clash, as they must, and there is give and take. It augurs well for the district that there are clashes, for dissent is a healthy and necessary thing in any governmental organization.

The opponents who appeal to personality cults accuse the school district of seeking to win an election with innuendoes and cheap political tricks. Perhaps they do not realize it, but they have resorted to the same thing. Sound opposition is necessary and good; emotional opposition is the product of hate and prejudice. It should have no place in a democratic election.

THE BEST arguments are advanced by the people who see no need for another increase in taxes. Strangely, they place the blame for the current problems on a board of education which won office with a promise of economy. Most of the opponents who fall into this class will readily admit that the district will have

(Continued on Page 2)