

POINTING THE FINGER at the terrible sump men ace that confronts Torrance children are Billy (left) and Ricky Irons, sons of Mr. and Mrs. William Irons, of 2107 E. 237th st., who this week reported that a very dangerous unfenced sump exists near their home. They, and many other families, are asking the city to take some action to have the sumps fenced to protect Torrance youngsters.

Torrance Officials Continue to Ignore Local Sump Menace

Are the officials of this city waiting for a tragedy to occur, waiting for some small. child to die a horrible death before enforcing the "Kathy Fiscus" law, which demands that all oil sumps be safely fenced?

That question is being asked more and more as aroused citizens become alerted to the danger of the deep, mire-filled pits that dot the length and breadth of this city.

This week William W. Irons, of 2107 W. 237th st., told this newspaper of a sump that lies very near his home in the middle of a well-populated section of town.

DANGER TOLD

"Shortly after we moved into our home about two months ago, my four-year-old son wandered away from the house. We began looking for him immediately," Irons related. "It was during this search that I found the unfenced sump lying less than 200 yards from my back door.'

"My first thought was that my tiny son might have fallen into the deep sump, which is filled with sticky oil residue.

STEEP BANK

"I was horrified that anyone would allow such a menace to exist near human habitation. A child falling into the sump would not stand a chance of getting out. The steep bank around the sump is four feet high in places," Irons declared.

City officials have been slow to act against owners of the sumps. This newspaper and a number of outraged citizens have brought the many unfenced sumps to the attention of the proper authorities, but little if any action has been taken to compel sump owners to erect fences around the death-traps.

In May of 1952, this newspaper published an account and photographers of a sump near central Torrance that claimed the lives of a goat and several other small animals. This sump, similarly, was lying very near a number of homes. There were indications that numerous children played around and near the terrible pit.

One of these days a child is going to fall into one of these unfenced sumps. The child, like the animals, will not be able to get out of the gooey tar-like oil waste, and so will perish.

Will the parents of this city have to sacrifice one of their children to prod city officials into action?

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE?

According to City Manager George Stevens, the assistant director of civil defense, George Powell, who is a former city councilman, has been given the responsibility for investigating oil wells and sumps here. He is further charged with the responsibility of contacting owners of unfenced sumps and informing them of the existing city ordinance demanding a safety fence.

A few sumps have been fenced. Many have not even been investigated by the city and continue to exist as a constant menace to Torrance children.

Irate parents are demanding this week that if city officials responsible for enforcing the "Kathy Fiscus" ordinance cannot do the job, that they step down and make room for someone who will, because the lives of children are at stake in this matter.



who successfully passed last month's civil service examination for his post.

The results of the exam were disclosed yesterday by Clerks Local 905, AFL, and retail

ty Manager George Stevens. The only other successful candidate of eight who took the test was Harry Van Bellehem, an employee of the Los Angeles recreation system. Van Bellehem passed with top honors; Carpenter followed in second place.

According to Stevens the council will name the next head of the recreation dept. at next Tuesday's regular meeting.

In all probability the council will re-appoint Carpenter, whose resignation tendered early last month was refused by the council by a three-to-two majority. Several city officials ventured the opinion that the resignation, which came before the exam, was merely a feeler, a vote of confidence move.

In view of the majority council support, a strong likelihood exists that Carpenter will be named to succeed himself. Only the roll call vote Tuesday can determine whether he will get unanimous

support or whether the vote will give greater benefits to the children. remain split.

Meanwhile, interested citizens The controversy started when years are invited to have free



FRANK CARPENTER

terms and conditions of the Mercantile Contract between Retail

merchants in the Harbor Area, for the year 1953-54, it was announced jointly today by Frank S. Selover, executive secretary of the Harbor Area Employers' Council, and Haskell Tidwell, secretary of Local

> 'Under terms of the settlement, effective February 3, 1953, all employees under the contract will receive an increase in wages of \$1.00 per week, the allowable under Wage Stabilization Board regulations.

The contract settlement further provides that if controls on wages exercised by the Federal government expire on April 30, 1953, the contract will be reopened on August 1, 1953, for consideration of wages only. If controls are continued in effect, there will be no

reopening. The contract will run to Feb. 1

1954. **Tests Offered**

between the ages of two and five

in any changes in policy that will tional activities were concerned. 2818 Manhattan Beach Blvd.

—Press Photo BANQUET ENTERTAINERS—Busy preparing their skits for the semi-annual Torrance High School GAA awards banquet are, left to right, Marca Wright, Norma Quine, Judy Wright, Mary Lou Sass, Marily Poeske, Sally Moore, Iris Maurer, Marilyn Powell, Jill Moore, Jofran Rubeo and Jeanette Thomp-. The banquet is being held tonight at the Civic Auditorium beginning at 5:30. The installation of GAA officers for the new term will highlight the affair, to which all mothers of GAA members have GAA officers for the new term will highlight the affair, to which all mothers of GAA members have seen invited.

His mother, Mrs. Pauline Martin, of 1630 Greenwood ave., wrote the following letter in the hope that it would awaken people to the damage done by the vicious practice of dumping trash and refuse where children might chance to play.)

Our child has been lying for nearly a week in a hospital, injured on trash you threw into a field. You wanted to save 50 cents or a dollar, or maybe just a little time. But think what it has cost this boy in suffering and his parents in both suffering and dollars.

You didn't mean to hurt a child, but you did.

Vacant properties have always been considered open playground by children. Before our house was built it was always peopled by 10-year-old cowboys and bandits. We didn't mind at all. What we did mind was the multiplication of cans and broken

glass. When the house was built, it was quite a job hauling away the accumulation of trash dumped by you.

Ask yourself if it could have been trash illegally dumped by you that hurt our child-or some other child. Ours is not the only youngster who has been injured in this manner.

There is regular trash collection provided by this city, also a free public dump for your accumulated trash.

Please don't set the scene for another child to be injured, even if you don't care how ugly it looks or how it inconveniences the property owners.

MRS. PAULINE MARTIN

Chamber Lays Plans Parents of pre-school children For '53 'Banner Year

The Chamber Board of Directors met the first time in or stirred up in the department in youngsters were getting the short children on Tuesday, Jan. 27, at the New Year and the meeting was highlighted by the the past two months will result end of the stick as far as recrea- the Calvary Baptist Day School, seating of the two new directors, Donald Armstrong and John A. Ebbinghouse, the drafting of major and special. committees, and the preliminary outline of a tentative project program for the year of 1953.

Executive Secretary Dale Isenberg stated that the Chamber has wonders in its community and become a veritable beehive acting other chambers with seam busting

as a clearing house for ideas sub- incomes were doing nothing and mitted by conscientious citizens in not making an attempt to even go Monday. One of the founders response to President Robert I. through the motions, he added. Plomert, Jr's request for sugges-

tions of projects to be included in the 1953 program to be under Apartment taken by the Chamber of Commerce. Letters and cards addres-sed to the Chamber on "What This Town Needs" show our citizens are clear thinkers and the Classified Ad contents reflect satisfaction and pride in their own community.

and pitch in, Isenberg added.

The Board of Directors of the 000 persons who see your ad in of Palos Verdes, hovers near death "The Board of Directors of the the Torrance Press. Have you a at Harbor General Hospital, at-chamber are particularly interest-ed in the citizens' viewpoint on spare room? An apartment? Or the tendants at the hospital reported will be undertaken at the expense hope that the paving will be comcommunity problems and develop- any other rental? ment as these suggested ideas en- You can find a tenant for your

able the directorate to plan ahead, vacancies if you advertise them. car went out of control at 190th st. Proposed for development duranticipating the needs of the com- - This is the small ad that got and Hawthorne blvd., and smash- ing the next fiscal year are a pemunity, doing things today before more than a dozen calls for Mrs. ed into the pole, according to Tor- destrian walk-way from the parkthey become problems tomorrow." Gish:

Torrance was complimented at Unfurn, 1-bdrm. Apt. Gar., recent meeting in the north panel heat. Adults only. 815 Amapola. Ph. 2363-J. when industrial executives wondered how the Torrance Chamber To place an inexpensive, power- His wife, Mrs. Vera Hanley, was strand.

of Commerce with a small size packed Press classified ad, just treated for minor injuries and rebudget was accomplishing near call Torrance 1185.

year's drive is to raise \$13,605. Above are, left to right, Bob Kulp, Joan Stephens, Marca Wright and Jim Haefeli. All are seniors at Torrance High School, all are regular users of the Y facilities.

Employers High School Principal Quits: Name Magner Successor **Re-elect** Wallace Bruce Magner, Jr., has been appointed to fill

McCown

the resignation of John K. Steinbaugh. A. J. McCown, president of Steinbaugh, who has been principal of the school for McCown Drug Stores, Inc., nearly five years, requested re-assignment as an elemen-

the post of principal of Torrance High School following

McCown Drug Bootes, was re-elected president of tary school teacher to allow here the Harbor Area Employers' to complete his work at USC for a doctorate degree in education. meeting of the corporation He was rehired by the school

board to teach seventh grade at Riviera School in Hollywood Rivboard to teach seventh grade at

it was disclosed.

Central Magner who is 37-years-old has made a rapid climb through the **COST** ranks in this school district since

his employment in 1951. He was Jack Drown, prominent Repubhired in September, 1951, as vice lican leader residing in Rolling principal of Torrance Elementary Hills, Monday night was elected School. Eight months later he was chairman of the Republican Cennamed to fill the vacancy when tral Committee of Los Angeles Wallace resigned as boys' vice County for the 17th Congressional principal at Torrance High School, District, Frank S. Selover, district He takes over his duties as prin- secretary, announced today. ciple of that school on Feb. 1,

Drown succeeds the late Richard Hunt Sampson.

Magner, who is a resident of The special meeting to elect a Compton, is married and the father chairman for the 17th Congresof two children. He served as top sional district was held in Gardena. staff aid in the U. S. Navy during School, presided over by Mrs. Cora World War II. He earned his BS B. Woolley, vice chairman, at the University of Redlands. Following the election, the

(Continued on Page 10) (Continued on Page 10)

A. J. McCOWN of the organization, he begins Parking Lot Slated his fifth year as its president.

Still Critical

The accident occurred when his to the use of the general public. rance police officers William Shan- ing area to the beach, a dressing

Hanley received multiple frac- station and landscaping of the The paving also would protect tures, including a fractured skull. earthen bluff overlooking the the life guard station, completed

the beach one of the finest in this area. Slated for construction this Unconscious since he was very spring is a parking lot which being rushed by engineers for the critically injured when his car would accommodate about 130 200x250-foot parking area so that Mrs. Gish found a tenant for her crashed into a power pole late cars and serve to protect the area they may be presented to the

Board of Supervisors within the next month, it was reported.

of the county. The beach is open pleted by late spring.

One reason for the paving is the much of the Hollywood Riviera

last month, from the effects of rain-caused erosion of the bluff

Drawings and specifications are behind it.

New directors elected to serve Plan Improvement on the board are: Norman Horwitz, Gardena groc-(Continued on Page 10) **Crash Victim**

leased.

President Plomert commented, apartment from among the 100,- Friday night, Warren Hanley, 46, from erosion

yesterday.

er and William Mitchell.

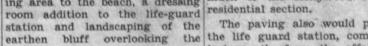
Early Action

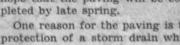
County Floats Bill

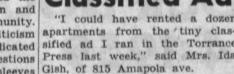
The Los Angeles county department of parks and recreation is this week preparing plans for the develop-

ment of the county-owned Torrance Beach that will make

Of Torrance Beach







Some response reflected criticism apartments from the 'tiny clasbut an over-all picture indicated sified ad I ran in the Torrance many constructive suggestions Press last week," said Mrs. Ida

with offers to roll up their sleeves Gish, of 815 Amapola ave.