

HOMES FAULTY; CITY BLAMED!

Explosion Rocks Local Refinery

Gas Line Bursts

A thundering, searing fire, whose flames shot over 150 feet into the air raged with a deafening noise for several hours when congested gas in a cracking plant heater exploded at the Sunset Oil company, 21000 South Figueroa, about 9:30 p.m. Tuesday night.

Though the plant was in full operation at the time of the explosion, none of the employees was killed or injured by the blast.

The gas line was shut off immediately but the fire was left to rage for about two hours so that the gas which was still in the lines could drain out of the system. This way the fire remained localized and could be kept under control, according to Battalion Chief Lathan Brewer. Damages were estimated at \$10,000.

This is the first time such an explosion has happened at the main Sunset Oil company refinery, according to Cecil Squire, superintendent. About 150 barrels or 6300 gallons of top crude oil were lost, Squire estimated.

At one time there was quite a bit of danger of the blaze spreading, but firemen from two Los Angeles county engines managed to keep it localized.

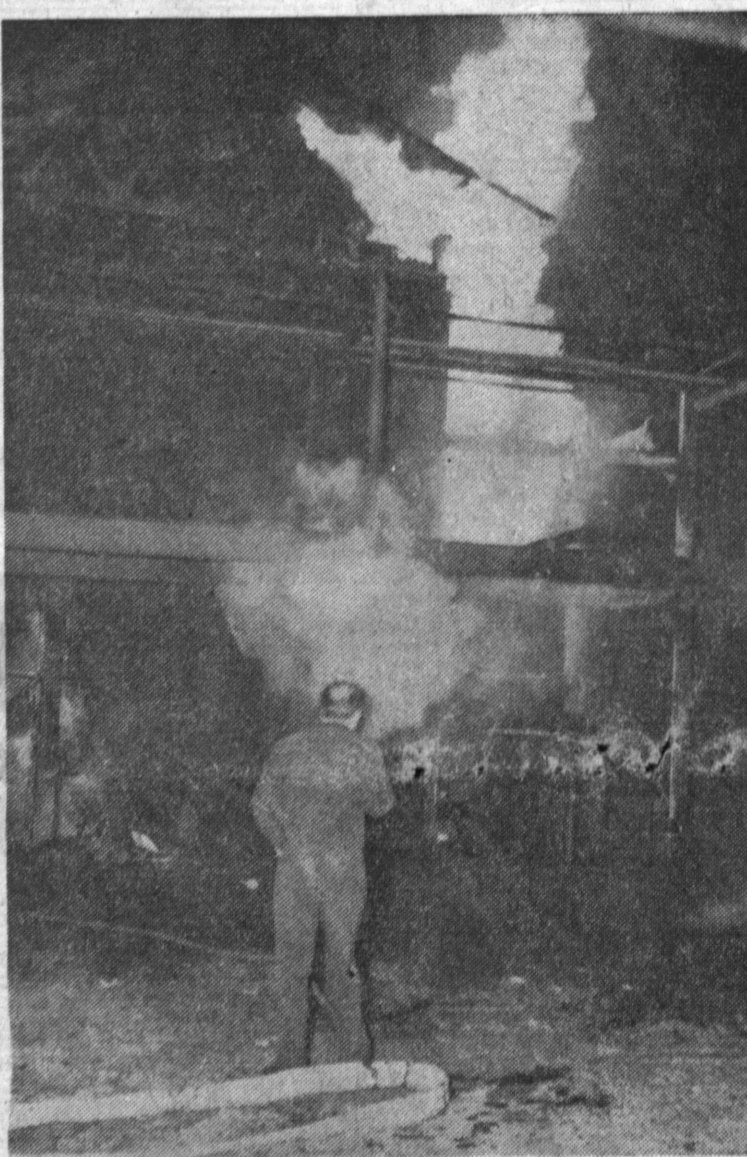
Supervisor Chace Seeks Re-Election

Endorsed by every mayor and many community leaders in his district, Burton W. Chace today announced he will be a candidate to succeed himself as County Supervisor of the Fourth District in the coming June primary election.

Chace said he will file his nominating petition with the County Registrar of Voters, Benjamin S. Hite, early next Wednesday.

Chace said he is working very closely with the Chief Administrative Officer of the County

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Chamber, Youth Band Battle Over Local Beauty Contest

What started as a tempest in a tea-pot seemed headed for a major storm this week when the Chamber of Commerce and the Torrance Area Youth Band emerged as sparring partners over the issue of this year's annual Miss Torrance Beauty Contest.

Wishing to combine the beauty contest with the county fair planned for August, the Chamber asked the Torrance Area Youth Band to join forces with the Chamber and hold the beauty contest in conjunction with the fair, rather than a month earlier.

Spokesmen for the Youth

Band said "nix" to this, maintaining that the contest has been their baby for the last two years and that they will not have it snatched away from them just as it begins to toddle.

Temporary
The Chamber maintains, on the other hand, that rights to the beauty contest were "lent" the Youth Band several years ago but that this privilege could be withdrawn any time.

Tickets or Looks
The possibility that the beauty queen would be determined according to who sells the most tickets, if the contest

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FORD FOUNDATION

School District Accepts Plan for More Teachers

In an effort to combat the critical teacher shortage which continues to haunt the local and national school scene, the Torrance Board of Education voted Tuesday to accept the Ford Foundation program which will provide the schools with a new source for its teacher supply.

Characteristic of the program is the speed with which new teachers will be made available and the fact that no previous teaching experience or teaching credential is required.

Program
Under the Ford Foundation program new teachers will be available after a three-month training period. Individuals

qualifying for the summer school course do not have to have any previous teaching experience or teaching credential. The only requirement is that they have a bachelor degree or better in any subject from an accredited university obtained at least two years ago.

Credential
Following the accelerated training period, the teachers will receive a temporary teaching credential and will start their full-time teaching under the supervision of the school principal. They will continue their training on Saturdays.

Ten For Torrance
Torrance has requested 10 of the 90 elementary teachers who will be trained under the Ford Foundation set-up at USC this summer. The university will

train 90 teachers each summer for the next four years, according to Irving R. Melbow, dean of the School of Education.

The Ford Foundation contributes \$600 for every teacher who is to be trained while the individual himself pays \$100 for the whole training program. The university contributes \$50-\$100, according to Superintendent J. H. Hull.

Those who wish to participate in the program must apply to their local school district (Torrance Unified School District) which in turn will nominate candidates for these scholarships, Dean Melbow stated.

Four such programs are in effect in California including centers in San Francisco, San Diego, and Claremont.

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POLICE TRAP NUDE 'TELEPHONE ROMEO'

Out on \$500 bail this week is Ralph Seigel, 35, of 6202 Progress, Long Beach, who, according to Det. Capt. Ernie Ashton, was picked up on an unusual case of "indecent exposure."

A North Torrance woman was well shaken up but quite unharmed after she agreed to act as bait for this gentleman caller whose intentions were strictly dishonorable. The gay Lothario, who had made telephone arrangements for an intimate, blind date ran right into the arms of an unimpressed detective instead of into the arms of his imagined lady love.

"Accepts"
The North Torrance woman stated that she had received three anonymous phone calls from a man who was polite but quite explicit about his intentions. After he called the second time, the woman contacted Captain Ashton who advised her to accept the invitation, stating that he would hurry right over to hide in the closet.

Inconspicuous
Seigel, who carried a brief case so as not to arouse undue suspicion in the neighborhood, arrived punctually at 12:30 p.m. at the woman's house after he had called her for the third time Monday March 1, and finally met with apparent success.

Seigel had hardly stepped in the door and that he disposed of his clothes. A moment later he was confronted by Ashton. Seigel is married and has two children.

When asked how he happened

to select this particular woman for his romantic yearnings, he stated that he just pulled her number out of the telephone directory.

EBBINGHOUSE TO ASSUME ROTARY POST

John Ebbinghouse and A. E. (Tommy) Thompson will assume the presidency and vice presidency, respectively, of the Torrance Rotary Club July 1, it



JOHN EBBINGHOUSE
... president

was announced this week following their election. The two men were elected

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Let There Be Schools

By JOHN A. SHIDLER, Guest Editor
President, Board of Education

(In order to air our civic needs, The Torrance Press is running a series of weekly editorials written by people of the community. Editorials may be submitted by anyone. All manuscripts become the property of The Torrance Press. We welcome ideas on any subject, controversial or otherwise. Editorials do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the publishers.)

VOTE "YES" MARCH 9, AT YOUR NEAREST SCHOOL FOR SCHOOL BONDS!

In 1955-56, 4,440 Torrance children will be on double session unless the March 9 bond issue is approved.

Due to the vast growth of Torrance, many additional bond issues must be passed in future years to house our new children.

We have schools and additions to schools under construction, or on the planning boards for all parts of the district constantly.

Still enrollments get ahead of us and force us on double session in various areas. The growth absorbed \$900,000 worth of Federal funds even before the schools could be built.

We are trying our best to keep costs down and production of classrooms up to stretch the school building dollar as far as possible.

We appreciate the patience the people are showing while we struggle with this problem.

Since the cost of the proposed 1954 bond issue is only 12c per \$100 or less than \$2.40 per average home for the first year, the main problem will be to remember to vote and to remind your neighbor to vote.

One home building project alone requires a big piece of this bond issue to house the children it brings to the district. Your vote is needed to help your Board of Education keep up with a growth rate that exceeds normal experience.

This is merely one of our responsibilities in the process of building a city of 10,000 into a city of 100,000 human beings with more than 20,000 children to educate annually in the short span of 10 or 12 years.

VOTE "YES" MARCH 9, AT YOUR NEAREST SCHOOL FOR SCHOOL BONDS!



J. SHIDLER

BUNNY HOP



—Press Photo

SIXTY TO SEVENTY rabbits did a hop-skip-and jump over the fence last week when burglars broke into the McManus rabbit farm, 21107 Amie. Roger McManus, 9, holds one little rabbit which stayed home.

Columbia To Lay Off Workers Permanently

Only a part of the 170 Columbia Steel workers laid off this week will be rehired a month from now when work will resume again in departments now under repair, it was indicated this week. Workers will be rehired according to seniority, a spokesman for the company announced.

There was no indication as yet as to how many workers are involved in the permanent lay-off.

About 170 Columbia Steel workers were laid off at the local plant last week for the purpose of repairs and improvements in the plant which will

take about four weeks, it was announced by C. C. Morgan, general superintendent of the Torrance Works.

One new charging machine, the first since 1923, is being installed and four open hearth furnaces are being repaired, it was reported.

There are a total of 1100 employees at Columbia Steel altogether.

Irish-Stew Ad Makes Big Hit

One of the most curious ads to be found in the Torrance Press classified section is the Irish-stew ad.

There might be neither rhyme nor reason to these ads, but oh what reader interest they have and what results they get!

Jack Burnham of 23020 Huber avenue knows. He sold all his odds and ends instantly through the following ad:

FOR SALE—Sofa bed, \$8; Lug platform rocker, \$4; dinette set, \$10; 2 twin size Jenny Lind style beds, \$5.

23020 Huber Ave.

If you've got some left-overs which you want to get rid of, why not place an Irish-stew ad in the Torrance Press classified section?

Building Department Under Fire

The lid was blown sky-high on alleged building violations this week when the State Housing Division virtually charged the city building department with gross negligence in enforcing the state and city building codes.

An investigation of the building department was immediately recommended by the Division of Housing of the California Department of Industrial Relations.

Violations

A rising tide of indignation from residents throughout the Torrance area brought forth a State investigation which revealed the following violations of the city building code in the Crenshaw Gardens tract:

1. Foundations and footings have been placed wholly or in part on filled ground without evidence of sufficient soil compaction, and footings have not been placed at 18-inch minimum depth as required by the Building Code.

2. Fireplace footings similarly inadequate.

3. Fireplace chimneys lack proper anchorage at ceiling or roof line.

4. Insufficient or improper roof bracing. Damaged plaster resulting from walls improperly

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EIGHT FILE FOR ELECTION

Gates to the local political arena will close at 12 o'clock noon sharp today, with indications being that there will be a total of eight city council candidates who will tee off in the election tournament.

Seven nominating petitions for the City Council post have been taken out and filed. Two are still circulating.

One mystery petition, taken out by Councilman Willy's Blount, was still circulating at press time. No indication was given as to whether the petition was taken out for a City Council candidate or for a candidate

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PROBLEMS?

Call Our Shopping Service

Hi! I'm Marjorie! May I help you with your shopping problems? Here are some of the questions asked me this week, maybe they will give you an idea or an answer.

Where can I find a child's sleeping bag? Is there a store in town that carries FOREVER YOUNG clothes for women? Where can I buy corrective shoes for my child? These and many more shopping problems can be solved by using The Torrance Press Telephone Shopping Service. No charge! No obligations! Phone FAirfax 8-2345 and ask for Marjorie.

•VOTE ON \$3 MILLION LOCAL SCHOOL BOND ELECTION TUESDAY, MAR. 9