

3 LOCAL BOYS KILLED ON BIKE

No Lights on Bike; Truck Kills Youths

A merry adventure on a new bike ended tragically for three local boys when they were struck by a truck and killed instantly five miles south of Point Mugu. The accident occurred after sundown Tuesday. Highway Patrol officers said the bicycle had no lights.

Killed instantly were John D. Slatten, 13, of 18329 Roslin avenue, and two brothers, Pat Scott, 9, and Gregory Scott, 6, of 18231 Ashley avenue, North Torrance.

Driver of the truck was Norris Head, 24, of Morgan Hill, Calif.

The Slatten boy had just been given the new bicycle for a paper route which he was starting. One of the neighboring children said that the three boys had told him Tuesday morning that they would take a ride to the amusement pier at Ocean Park.

51 Miles From Home

They left at about 10 a.m., all three riding on the same bicycle. The boys apparently changed their minds while en route, traveling on past Santa Monica and toward Ventura county. They were about 51 miles from home when the accident happened. John A. Slatten, father of the Slatten boy, believes that the boys were given a lift somewhere along the way, since he could not see how they could have traveled all that distance on a bike alone.

The boys had left on similar

Parents Uneasy

The parents of the boys became uneasy around 7 p.m. Tuesday night and reported the boys missing. Torrance police received the coroner's message from Oxnard around midnight, whereupon police officers went and informed the two families of what had happened.

The Scott boys were the sons of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Scott. The father, a merchant seaman, is away at sea. They have two other children, Robert 9, and Sandy, 2, according to neighbors.

The Slatten boy was the son of Mr. and Mrs. John A. Slatten. The father is employed at General Petroleum. The mother has worked for American Latex. The Slattens have five other children: Ted, 3; Patricia, 14; Mary 12; Kay, 5; Sue, 1, and Chuck, 16.

The three boys who were killed went to El Nido Elementary school.

Both families have lived in North Torrance about four years.

No funeral arrangements had been made as yet.

SCHOOL BOARD TO DECIDE CHILD CARE CENTER ISSUE

The question whether the controversial child care center will be continued or not is now up to the Board of Education which will decide the issue at its next Board meeting, Tuesday night, September 7 at 8 p.m.

At a meeting of various individuals affected by the child care center issue, the pros and cons of the matter were discussed. The most crucial point—the availability of a building for the center—was solved when two buildings were placed at the board's disposal, namely the Torrance Park building and the YMCA.

Must Submit Plan

The child care center issue erupted overnight when the board moved to close the present Torrance elementary school center in order to use the building for classroom purposes. The protesting mothers were told to submit a workable plan for the board's consideration if they wished the center to continue.

Full cost of the program is paid for by the state and by the parents using the center, but the local school district must administer the program.

Welfare Council Aids

An attempt to work out a mutually satisfactory solution to the present problem was spearheaded by the Harbor Area Welfare Council when the mothers asked the Council to help them in developing a workable plan.

The child care center is intended for the children of

20-Acre Grass Fire Sunday

Nearly 200 people watched the crackling flames of a raging grass fire Sunday evening near Crenshaw and Maricopa in the vicinity of Pittsburgh Plate Glass Co.

Though the 20-acre fire looked menacing from a distance, it was never out of control and Torrance fire engines left the scene about two hours after the fire started, according to Capt. Robert Lukas.

Directing the firefighters was Batt. Chief N. T. Whitney. One engine covered the Pittsburgh storage tanks while the other fought the fire.

The fire was probably set by juveniles, Fire Department officials declared.

Oil Producers Seek To Halt Pollution Threat

One step forward was taken by local oilmen Monday night when they decided to study what steps could be taken to cope with the underground water pollution threat in the Torrance area.

The meeting which was held in the Torrance City Hall was attended by about 50 oilmen. The meeting was called following a recent investigation by the Regional Water Pollution Control Board No. 4 which disclosed that 57,000 barrels of highly mineralized oil field waste waters are being discharged into the ground each month. A total of 130 separate disposal sights were listed.

A committee was appointed at Monday night's meeting to study the cost of trunk lines from the oil derricks to the

sewer lines. The cost will be broken down per individual oil derrick. A report will be made within 30 days.

If the producers come into the disposal district as a group there is no disposal charge, the assembly was told by L. S. Farrell of the County Sanitation District.

If individual producers come into the district, there is a \$35 service charge.

The meeting was presided over by Earl Robinette, president, and E. B. Kenney, secretary.

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Coldwell-Banker Gets Lease On Airport Shopping Center



TORRANCE'S MAYOR, Nicholas O. Drale, (left) Commerce and Industry Division chairman of Harbor Area's 1954-55 Community Chest campaign, is greeted by Area Chairman Tommy Thompson at door of the new campaign headquarters, 335 W. Sixth St., San Pedro.

Drale, Thompson Head Harbor Chest Drive

A spirit of mutual enthusiasm and confidence in the overall success of the approaching Community Chest appeal was expressed by the Harbor Area's two top leaders, Area Chairman Tommy Thompson, and Commerce and Industry Division Chairman Nicholas O. Drale, mayor of Torrance, when they met at the campaign headquarters, 335 W. Sixth street, San Pedro, this past week.

In the course of making a tour of the recently acquired premises, both chairmen extended an invitation to all Harborites to visit the headquarters. The present headquarters has been set up to serve as the central point for campaign operations to be carried on by the Harbor Area's seven participating cities: Palos Verdes, Rolling Hills, Harbor City and Lomita.

Wet-Proof 6-Year-Old (Crib) Gone

"My baby line crib and mattress are gone!" Mrs. C. M. Adams of 23539 Miribel Ave. exclaimed as she called the Torrance Press.

"Ma'am, you don't want the Press, you probably want the police," the reporter said. "No, I want the Press," Mrs. Adams said. "I placed an ad in your paper and had instant results Thursday morning. Just thought I'd tell you about it."

Her 90-cent ad read as follows:

FOR SALE—6-year "Baby Line" crib and wet-proof mattress. Very good condition. TE. 4-8932

1-Day Drive To Register Voters Friday

An intensive 1-day campaign to register voters for the November state and national election will be held tomorrow, Friday, September 2, it was announced this week.

The non-partisan campaign to register voters who are not already registered will be held at various strategic spots throughout the city. Sound trucks will circulate throughout these areas telling residents where the nearest place is to register. Registration deadline is September 9.

LATE NEWS

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: September 9 is the last day to register for the national and state election to be held November 2, according to City Clerk A. H. Bartlett. The City Hall will be open till 9 p.m. September 9, for those who have not yet registered and wish to do so.

CIVIL SERVICE HEARING: The Civil Service Board met last night to render a decision on the status of Fireman Milton Langum who is seeking reinstatement as an engineer following his summary demotion two months ago. He was demoted for leaving an auxiliary pump on a fire truck in gear on his way to a fire. Langum maintained that the pump was not damaged.

RAPE SUSPECT: Leroy Fredrick, 32, of Los Angeles, was arrested on charges of statutory rape. Fredrick and his 14-year-old step-daughter, against whom the act was committed, were arrested in Fredrick's car at 166th street and Casimir. The daughter was released to her mother. A felony complaint was entered against Fredrick.

DRIVE-IN: Peter F. Arola, 1000 Jackson court, Waterbury, requested a 50-year lease on the airport property for a fish farm. He asked for a lot 250 ft. by 450 ft. He will confer with City Manager Stevens as to what site is available.

DRIVE-IN: Hody's Drive-In is interested in building a drive-in on the corner of Highway 101 and the west side of Crenshaw, according to Venard Kemp and Herbert Albright, who represent the drive-in. The Airport Commission referred the matter to the City Manager and the City Council for further negotiations. A \$600,000 building is intended, to be constructed when construction on the adjacent shopping center starts.

AIRPORT DEVELOPMENTS: Kemp and Albright also asked for a 250 ft. by 200 ft. area north of the drive-in for a three-fold purpose: service station, office building, and car wash (plus possibly one more building for real estate and escrow offices). The matter was referred for further study by the Airport Commission.

AIRPORT CORNERS: Interest in the two corners east and west of Crenshaw boulevard on Highway 101 was expressed by H. M. Collum, 412 Via Media, Palos Verdes. Collum wishes to negotiate for a gas station and possibly for a Clock drive-in.

COMMUNITY BREAKFAST: (Continued on Page 6)

DEVELOPER PLANS \$2 MILLION CENTER

Lease for a multi-million dollar, ultra-modern shopping center on 34 acres of choice airport property was granted to Coldwell-Banker and Co. through the unanimous vote of the City Council Tuesday night.

Developer of the property located on the northeast corner of Crenshaw boulevard and Highway 101 is Store Properties, Inc. On a previous occasion Venard Kemp and Herbert Albright, Jr., Coldwell-Banker spokesmen, declared that their client is interested in erecting a \$2,000,000 modern up-to-date shopping center.

Represents Noted Firms

No information was available at this time as to what firms will be located on the newly acquired site. The company represents such noted firms as Bullocks, Broadway, Montgomery Ward, Robinsons, Woolworth, and Lerner, among others, according to Miles Blaine.

Action to accelerate the commercial development of the city of Torrance was begun recently when Mayor Nick Drale called attention to the need for such a development, and Councilman Victor Benstead proposed a rezoning of large tracts of land for such a purpose.

Conditions
Conditions for the airport lease are as follows:
1. Rental—payment of an annual amount equivalent to 6 per cent of the appraised value (Continued on Page 7)

Plan 38 Precincts for Civic Center Election

Continuing with systematic plans calling for a special civic center bond election October 19, the City Council approved the establishment of 32 election precincts and the appointment of election officers. It also voted to hire O'Melveny and Myers to draw up the bond issues.

The special election will feature two bond propositions.

Two Propositions

One calls for a new \$700,000 civic center, complete with a new city hall and a new police station. The present quarters have been termed greatly inadequate for the job the various city departments are asked to perform.

The tremendous and continuous growth of Torrance makes this expansion move necessary, city officials declare.

The second proposition calls for a \$250,000 swimming pool and bath house.

All these facilities would be located just north of Torrance blvd. between Madrona and Maple avenues.

Campaign Planned

A number of civic groups will soon wage an all-out campaign to familiarize the public with all the details of the propositions and the need for the civic center and pool.

Drawings of the proposed center will also be made available soon.

The two bond issues failed in the regular April election. The City Council decided to hold a special election rather than run the bond issue in with the general election in November. It was felt that voters would lose sight of the local issue in a state and national campaign.

New School Officials Appointed

Three new principals and three new vice principals have been appointed in the Torrance Unified School District, according to Al Posner, assistant superintendent of schools.

Malcolm Richland will be the new principal at Fern-Greenwood elementary schools. Richland is a graduate of UCLA. He (Continued on Page 7)

Plan New Shopping Areas Here

A sweeping attempt to provide new and extensive retail shopping areas and commercial zones for Torrance led to the possibility this week that the downtown shopping district will be rezoned and expanded "as far west as the people are willing to let it go."

The move to push the business district from Cravens avenue all the way back to Torrance High School, the health center, and the railroad tracks will probably be considered by the Planning Commission after other proposed zone changes throughout the city of Torrance have been recommended to the City Council, it was learned this week.

No definite boundary lines for the downtown business expansion have been suggested.

In the meantime the Planning Commission met last night to study a map showing the new retail shopping and commercial zones proposed to the Commission by George Powell, secretary and advisor to the Commission.

Hearings in the various areas affected will be scheduled by (Continued on Page 7)

Schools Now Open For Enrollment

All of the schools in the Torrance Unified School District are now open for the enrolling of new pupils. To facilitate the enrollment of children, it is suggested that parents enroll their children as soon as possible rather than wait until school open Monday, September 20, it was announced.

A child must have been born on or before December 2, 1949 to be admitted to kindergarten. To be admitted to first grade, he must have been born on or before December 2, 1948. A birth certificate is required prior to admission to kindergarten or the first grade.

Changes in Attendance Areas

There are very few changes in the elementary attendance areas for the beginning of school this fall. The following changes are the only ones that have been made for the beginning of the school year: Ellinwood tracts—all of the children in the Ellinwood tracts will attend the Meadow Park School; Victoria Terrace—all of the children in the Victoria Terrace tracts will attend the Meadow Park School; Torrance Heights—the children living on the south side of 226th Street in the Torrance Heights tract will attend the Meadow Park School while those children on the north side of 226th Street will attend the Madrona School.

All of the elementary school children in the Kaufman tract at 190th and Hawthorne will attend the El Nido School.

Additional information may be obtained by contacting the local schools or the Torrance Unified School District office at FA 8-0540.

Downtown Stores Closed Monday

Downtown Torrance stores and banks will be closed Labor Day, Monday, September 6. Some of the markets and drug stores will remain open.

MODERN FIRE DEPT. HEADQUARTERS OK'd

Torrance residents who approved the fire department bond issue in the recent municipal election will soon see a new, modernistic \$200,000 Fire Department Headquarters Station at Crenshaw blvd. and Carson.

Plans for the new station were approved Tuesday night by the City Council. Marion J. Varner is the architect.

Facilities

There will be an upstairs dormitory for 35 men; also located upstairs will be lockers, recreational facilities, cooking and dining facilities.

Accommodations will be provided for four battalion chiefs and four captains.

The building will be of reinforced brick in combination with steel and wood framing.

Functional

The design is executed in a simple contemporary functional style to blend with the purpose of the structure, according to Varner. Varner, who lives in Pasadena, also modernized the Inglewood City Hall and the Elks Lodge building this year.

Varner and Fire Chief J. J. Benner made an extensive study of U.S. fire stations to develop an optimum design for the greatest possible efficiency.

The station has been planned with an eye to future expansion needs, it was stated.