

Victor Precinct Petitions to Join Torrance Schools



BRRRR—Bundled up in a fur coat like an Eskimo, is Beverly Erickson, who found things rather cool in town Monday. She should have, since temperatures dipped to the 32 degree freezing point, causing water to freeze in pipes.

District Merger Drive on

A drive to annex the Victor Precinct into the Torrance Unified School District beginning in the fall of 1959, has resulted in support by more than 70 per cent of the residents.

Irwin W. Boxer, of 20506 Tolosa St., said he turned in 220 signatures of the approximately 300 registered voters in the area yesterday.

The change from the Redondo Beach to the Torrance school districts will have to be approved eventually by the Board of Supervisors.

Sees Approval

Boxer, a mathematics instructor at El Camino College, said that he believes that both school districts involved approve of the change.

He said that the Redondo district is not interested in building a school in the Victor area, since the land is within Torrance city limits, but that he expects that Torrance will construct a school there within two years.

Presently, approximately 175 elementary school age children attend Redondo Beach schools, but a substantial increase of student population is expected with the development of subdivisions on the west end.

Step-Children

"We're the step-children of Redondo. If they get crowded and anybody gets shuffled, it will be us," Boxer said.

He explained that last year Torrance youngsters were transferred from one school to another because of overcrowding.

Victor Precinct, located west of Hawthorne Blvd. between Torrance and Del Amo Blvds., was annexed to Torrance for municipal purposes two years ago, but no change was made in the school district.

Don Wilson is developing more than 400 houses west of Henrietta St., which will bring additional youngsters into the area, and other subdivisions are planned in the area.

Students from the area this year attend the Beryl Heights School.

Freezing Point Reached by Mercury Here Early Monday

Temperatures plunged to the freezing point Monday after a weekend of howling gales. The minimum reading recorded was 32 degrees, sometime between Sunday evening and Monday morning. Some residents reported that water froze in their pipes.

One of these was Policeman A. L. Jackson who said that when he attempted to water his lawn at 6 a.m. Monday, the water was frozen solid.

The freezing temperature followed two days of lashing storms which raised havoc with boats off the coast of Torrance, felled trees and power lines.

The lashing gales forced curtailment of operations at Torrance Municipal Airport, and the high for the same days created dust storms that

whipped across unprotected areas in town.

Burglar alarms were triggered by the winds, and several signs were reported down from the powerful breeze.

The low mercury reading for Friday was 50. It dropped to 44 on Saturday and 42 Sunday.

The high for the same days was 72, 66, 67, and 64 Monday.

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Councilmen in Furor Over Neal Charges

Low Water Pressure in South Area Blamed for Fire Loss

A widow, whose house and cherished possessions went up in flames, today charged that low water pressure increased the total loss.

Mrs. Marguerite Givens sadly reflected that delays caused in fighting the fire were responsible for adding to the destruction of her frame house at 23811 Eshelman St., on Nov. 8.

Fire Marshal Robert Lucas, who investigated the blaze, agreed that delay was caused in boosting water pressure sufficiently to become effective for fire fighting.

Mrs. Givens, who said that her family had occupied the two-bedroom house for many years, had resided in it, with her son, Howard K., Jr., for the past 12 years.

"It was all I had in the world," she declared. "All my books, the television set, and the new stove is lost."

She said that the area, which is served by a private water company, Narbonne Ranch No. 2, has chronically suffered from low pressure.

"It could have happened to anyone in the neighborhood," she claimed.

Lucas said that when the firemen arrived at the scene, the house was well enveloped in fire.

He said that separate connections were made at two hydrants.

"There wasn't enough water pressure. Not more than in an overgrown garden hose," he agreed.

But he differed from Mrs. Givens in the time that elapsed until sufficient pressure could be produced by the booster pumps.

Mrs. Givens said that neighbors told her it was from 10 to 15 minutes, but Lucas estimated the time from two to four minutes, with five minutes at the outside.

"Of course every minute counts," he said.

The fire apparently broke out when paint thinner, used in the southwest bedroom was ignited from a stew which was cooking on the stove, the fire marshal said.

Mrs. Givens said that the fire department responded promptly, but that valuable time was lost by the low pressure.

"There I sat, watching it burn. All I had went up in smoke," she said.

Lucas said that in most other areas of the city, pressure would have been immediately available, but that this condition has existed in this section for years.

He said that Fire Chief J. J. Benner has made reports on the situation in the past.

Mrs. Givens was given temporary shelter in a trailer furnished by neighbors, Mr. and Mrs. Gil Pharis, but she is now residing in a rented house at 2265 W. 250th St., Lomita.

Structural loss was officially estimated at \$5000, with another \$1500 tabbed for contents.

Lucas explained that losses are estimated on the basis of depreciation, and do not necessarily consider replacement costs.

Councilmen Irked by Former Airport Aide

Two councilmen took sharp exception to the parting remarks of a former airport commissioner, and called for the resignation of others who agree with him. Target of the verbal blast was Malcolm B. Neal who quit his post Thursday in anger over a council decision to take lease negotiation powers away from the commission.

Law on Dairies Prepared

An ordinance placing stringent spraying regulations on Torrance dairies, was submitted to the City Council Tuesday.

The law, which replaces an earlier ordinance which would have banned cows here after Jan. 1, 1960, also limits dairy owners to not more than 35 animals per acre, and prohibits increase of herd after Nov. 1, this year.

The law, drafted by City Attorney Stanley Remelmeier following conferences with dairymen, residents, and county health officials, requires spraying against insects at least once every four days from April 1 to Nov. 1, and once every six days the rest of the year.

In addition, dairymen will be required to spray on 24-hour written notice from health officials and must remove manure from their premises.

Remelmeier was ordered to prepare a stringent law after the City Council backed away from an ordinance which would have closed dairies.

Petitions from residents led to a demand for the ouster of cows from the city.

Student Spilled From Truck Bed On School Site

A student suffered cuts and bruises on his forehead Monday afternoon when he spilled out of the bed of a pickup truck on the South High School campus.

Police said that Otto Clarence Ledford, Jr., 16, of 3210 Calle de Arboles, was taken to Ft. MacArthur Base Hospital, after he tumbled into the parkway at the school, police said.

He had been riding in the pickup truck driven by John Charles Robinson, 15, of 4509 Greenmeadows Ave., another student, while two other boys were passengers in the cab of the vehicle.

Babysitter Foils Strange Intruder

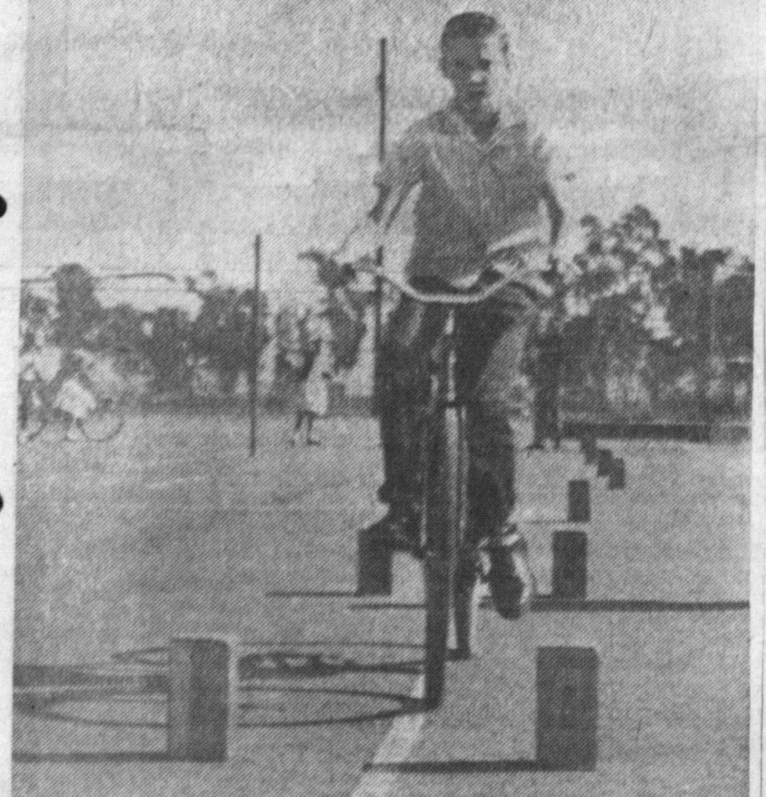
Police this week hunted a blond man with a crew-cut who attempted to force his attentions on a babysitter.

Edith Arlene May 18, was in a home at 18424 Glenburn Ave., when she answered a knock at the door. After she admitted the intruder, he attempted to attack her, she told the police.

She managed to frighten him, by kicking him, and he fled.

POLICE PRAISED

Torrance Police Department this week received praise from the Northrop Recreation Sports Car Club for advice and guidance.



OBSTACLE COURSE—Gary Wayne, seventh grader at El Nido School, wheels his bicycle through obstacle course to demonstrate his control of the machine.



HELPFUL HINTS—Tips on bike safety are given by Policeman Bruce Bishop to Barbara Kerr as she prepares to take the test for her bicycle license as part of El Nido School's tests this week.

Licenses Issued to Bicyclists

Youngsters at El Nido School Tuesday received licenses designating them as official bicycle operators after taking "between the wheels" tests.

Part of a bike safety program at the school, the licenses were issued after both written and riding tests. Mrs. Hazel Spencer's sixth grade class sponsored the event.

All students in the school received brochures to study before taking the written test on safety rules. On Tuesday, they put what they learned into practice for the actual riding tests.

A school-wide poster contest also was part of the bike safety program. Each room selected its two best posters, with top winners being chosen for the whole school.

Sharon Kelley won the grand prize for the best poster. Lower grade winners were Linda Daugherty and Thomas Payne; Ada Kerr and Valerie Nadeau were best in the middle grades; ad Jackie Pullen and Pat McKee were the upper grade winners.

DAV Sponsor Fantasy on Ice

"Fantasy on Ice," a 12-act ice show sponsored by the South Bay Chapter No. 92, Disabled American Veterans, will be presented Saturday at El Camino College beginning at 8:30 p.m.

The revue, the second annual show, will feature stars from the Ice Follies, Ice Capades, Frosty Frolics and other performers.

The cast will include Mae Edwards, Dianne and Bonnie Plank, Dick Simonton, Carol Leigh, and other favorite stars.

Proceeds will go to the DAV.



FIRE DAMAGE—Mr. and Mrs. William Howell, inspect the home of Mrs. Marguerite Givens, who claims that low water pressure in the South Torrance area, caused delays in fighting the fire. Firemen admit it took several minutes to boost pressure to an effective level. Press Photo.

Discrimination in Taxes Hit by Walteria Man

A Walteria resident, stung by his 1958 tax bill, charged today that he is being discriminated against, and demanded an investigation of his assessment. Franklin C. Pierson, an aircraft worker, of 3904 Bluff St., claims that he is being assessed higher for his \$14,950 home than others in his neighborhood, and that a friend's \$25,000 house in Hollywood Riviera, is subject to a lower tax bill.

He said that his tax bill went up from \$221 in 1957 to \$256.

Lower Taxes Pierson claims that two sim-

ilarly priced houses in his own neighborhood are taxed respectively at \$190 and \$196.

"Even with veterans exemption, which was taken away from me this year, this is still not equitable," said Pierson.

He said that if the County Tax Assessor's office does not make an investigation of his charges of discrimination, he will bring legal action, and might even start a petition drive.

In his letter to the assessor, he wrote:

Sends Letter

"I just received my tax bills for the year 1958, and was appalled at the amount I've been assessed. I was even more disturbed upon investigating in my own neighborhood. I find that such a difference in assessments exists as to confirm my belief, that I've been discriminated against.

"Unless immediate investigation is made into this (partiality) program practice, and that I have tangible proof that such is being made, I'll have no other alternative but to seek protection and equalization through the courts," he wrote.

LIEUTENANT RETIRES

Police Lt. Karl Friberg announced his retirement from the police department this week.



CAR WINNER—Bob Sally, right, manager of Shoppers Market, Carson and Main Sts., presents keys to a new Triumph car to Mrs. Pat Trudeau, of 22612 Neptune Ave., Wilmington, lucky winner of one of the many outstanding prizes. Jim Panot, sales manager of Herman Miller, Torrance Plymouth and Triumph dealer, through whose courtesy vehicle was obtained, looks on. Mrs. Trudeau, a resident here for 17 years, is the mother of a son, Danny, 1, and expects another addition to the family around Christmas time. The new car comes in handy since her present one is seven years old.

Want Ad Gets Fast Results

Prospective tenants came to his door in a constant stream, reported Clarence A. Westall, of 2265 W. 235th St.

He had advertised his house at 2273 W. 235th St., for rent in the Torrance Press classified columns, and reported that he was able to rent it right away.

"People were still coming after the house was

rented," he said. If you have something to rent, sell or buy, call a Torrance Press ad-taker at FA 8-2345, and let her help you with your advertising problems.

OPEN HOUSE TOUR

An open house tour of the Little Company of Mary Hospital for all donors will be held Dec. 7 from 1:30 to 4:30.

Torrance in Sixth Place in Building

Torrance is holding sixth place in Southern California in building permit valuation for the first 10 months of 1958.

As the race enters the stretch, Torrance has a total of \$20,787,742 in permits as of Oct. 31.

It is surpassed only by Los Angeles, San Diego, Long Beach, Anaheim and San Bernardino.

Torrance is nearly \$4,500,000 ahead of last year at this time.

Valuation for the other top 10 cities is as follows: Los Angeles, \$503,970,661; San Diego, \$15,387,300; Long Beach, \$64,325,510; Anaheim, \$48,062,854; San Bernardino, \$21,886,897.

Following behind Torrance are Chula Vista, \$19,952,296; Buena Park, \$19,900,120; Glendale, \$18,951,338; Riverside, \$18,685,572, and Fresno, \$17,025,539.

Included in the survey made by the Torrance Chamber of Commerce, are 12 counties south of Fresno to the Mexican border.