

Three Injured in Train, Horse, Auto Accidents



WINNING DRIVE—Martin Jack of Torrance won a 109-mile safety economy run sponsored for driver education teachers by receiving the highest score on ton-mileage. Jack heads the driver education department at Leuzinger High School. Press Photo

Teacher Proves Own Instruction Effective

Proof that an instructor can practice what he teaches was brought home by a Torrance man in the form of a first place trophy in a weekend Safety Economy Run.

Winner of the event, which was sponsored by General Petroleum and the Automobile Club of Southern California for Driver Education instructors, was Martin Jack, of 2435 Border Ave.

The head of the driver education department at Leuzinger High School, Lawndale, won the run with a 57.83 ton mileage in his 1950 Cadillac convertible. Actual fuel consumption was 22.24 miles per gallon.

His co-driver on the 109-mile trip to Saugus was Jack Townsend, another Leuzinger instructor.

Jack admitted that even driver education teachers are some times apt to boo-boo when it comes to chauffeuring their own cars.

"A teacher is only human, he is careless like everyone else. If we make mistakes though, the students watch, and we must set a good example," he said.

The instructor said he won the ton-mileage event because of complete lack of errors.

Part of the secret in winning economy safety runs is to avoid quick starting and stopping.

"You have got to watch well in advance all problems, such as signals, and try to time yourself to avert quick action."

To prepare himself for the run, Jack placed a sandpaper pad on the accelerator pedal and wore a stocking right foot.

"I don't know whether that helped," he conceded, "but my partner said that's the way some of the fellows in the regular Economy Run do it."

Lawndale Cityhood Move May Stall Torrance Annexation

Torrance's northward annexation push may be slowed down this week if petitions for incorporation of most of Lawndale are filed.

Chester Brown, president of the Lawndale Chamber of Commerce, said that cityhood petitions may be filed with the Board of Supervisors this week to counteract piecemeal annexation of Lawndale.

Only last week Torrance filed intention to annex a section of Lawndale bounded by Compton Blvd., Redondo Beach Blvd., Prairie Ave. and Van Ness Ave.

Lawndale leaders want to incorporate an area bounded by Prairie Ave., and Ingwood Ave., Rosecrans Ave. and Redondo Beach Blvd.

They delayed filing papers because part of that area is under consideration for merger with Hawthorne. This is comprised of an odd-shaped strip on both sides of Hawthorne Blvd. from Rosecrans to 149th St.

The Hawthorne City Council will check signatures on an extension petition for the strip at its March 23 meeting.

Several weeks ago Torrance retained a part time employee to determine if Lawndale as a whole would be interested in becoming part of Torrance. While no official report has been submitted, the city made a lightning move last week to annex a section near, but not including El Camino College.

Torrance has also indicated a desire to test the feelings of property owners in portions of Lawndale for annexation proceedings.

Torrance Grab Fear Expressed

Torrance's interest in taking over Narbonne Ranch Water Co. No. 2, was described as an attempt to get a "foothold" and annex Lomita.

That was the statement of Mrs. Dessie Myers, president of the Lomita Property Owners and Registered Voters Association in seeking signatures to annex the water system to County District No. 13.

While taking a slap at Torrance's interest in the water situation which recently resulted in a building ban in South Torrance, Mrs. Myers also opposed incorporation of Lomita.

"A few people are suggesting incorporation as a city and then the new city buying and improving the water company. Some people want extra jobs at your expense," she declared.

She urged residents to sign petitions to annex the private water system to the county in order to raise cash to improve the distribution system.

Low water pressure has been the complaint of residents served by two private water companies in portions of Lomita and Torrance.

Jet Airplane Eyed for Use at Playground

The jet age will become a reality to Torrance youngsters if the Recreation Department has its way.

The Park and Recreation Commission last night was to hear a request by Harry B. Van Bellem to place an obsolete jet airplane in one of the city's playgrounds.

The engine and other movable parts would be removed from the aircraft which would be used for youngsters for make-believe flights.

Several months ago an abandoned fire engine was placed in McMaster's Park for use of children.

Await Decision on Legality of Drainage Funds

Decision on whether a city official can block a City Council allocation is expected to be made shortly by Superior Judge Eugene P. Fay.

Jerome I. Scharfman, director of finance, has refused to approve a \$10,000 allocation authorized by the City Council to construct a drain designed to stop further slides on Portobello drive.

City Attorney Stanley Reimelmeier has brought suit against Scharfman for the purpose of testing the legality of using general fund money to aid property owners.



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Youth Theft Gang Confesses 27 Jobs

Students Caught on Burglaries

Arrest of four South High School students Monday night has resulted in their confession of 27 burglaries here during the past four months.

Two of the boys were picked up at their homes and the other two on the street on their way home, Det. Sgt. Don Hamilton said.

The four WALTERIA boys, aged 14 and 15, took about \$300 in cash, liquor and five guns during their series of break-ins.

One of the young suspects was once caught by the owner of a Palos Verdes Estates home, but managed to escape by pulling a knife on his captor.

Participating in the pickup of the four teenagers were Dets. Myles Hamilton, Ralph Walker and Wally Nitz.

Sgt. Hamilton said that the boys admitted burglarizing 20 homes in Torrance, mostly in WALTERIA, one in Palos Verdes Estates and six in the Rolling Hills area.

He said that the boys were mainly interested in cash, and gave away or threw away most of the weapons. They themselves consumed the whiskey which was stolen in the burglaries.

One gun was recovered in a field in the WALTERIA area. The boys operated either in pairs or with three of them participating. They were turned over to juvenile officers for prosecution in the burglaries.



OFFICIALLY LAUNCHED—Participating in the dedication ceremonies of Torrance's new court house in the civic center are, from left, Boris S. Woolley, president of the South Bay Bar Association; Mayor Albert Isen; Supervisors Burton W. Chace and Kenneth Hahn.

Officials Attend Courthouse Rites

County and city officials Monday participated in the dedication of the 325,000 municipal court building in the civic center.

The ceremonies marked the official launching of the branch court in the modern new building which was occupied earlier this month.

Boris S. Woolley, president of the South Bay Bar Association, served as master of ceremonies at the dedication. The major address was given by Supervisor Burton W. Chace.

In addition to the courtroom, the building contains office space for the district attorney, marshal, and sheriff.

A public inspection tour followed the conclusion of ceremonies.

Building Permit Fee Hike Seen

Higher building permit fees were asked this week by Building Superintendent Lee Schliens.

The official pointed out that the fee schedule has been raised in the 1958 edition of the Uniform Building Code.

Pair Faces Trial on Check Charge

Two 19-year-old men were ordered to stand trial on forgery charges in Ingewood Superior Court March 13.

They are Ronald Russo and David L. Sanders both of whom appeared at separate preliminary hearings before Municipal Judge

Seek Pumping of Park Sump

Drainage of El Retiro Park sump after each rain to avert drowning of a child, was requested by the Hollywood Riviera Home Owners Association this week.

The rain water which collects in El Retiro Park is an attractive nuisance. We fear that some child will drown. It is suggested that such water be pumped out as soon after each rain as possible," President W. J. Hanson asked the City Council.

Car Shears Fire Plug, Gets Stuck in Hole

Thousands of gallons of water showered on busy Pacific Coast highway Monday evening when a fire hydrant was sheared off by an auto.

Bernard William Sage, 21, of 1712 Esplanade, Redondo Beach, told police that his brakes failed and in order to avoid crashing through an intersection, he swerved and hit the plug.

Immediately a geyser of water, spouted from the hydrant at Ocean Ave. and Pacific Coast highway, crowded by evening rush hour traffic.

Sage's auto was stuck on top the hole made by the ripped-off hydrant and a tow truck was unable to pull it out of the mud.

Finally a fire department salvage truck managed to free the water-splashed vehicle and turn the job back to the tow truck crew.

Following the accident, a number of residents in the area complained of interrupted water service.

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MOVE CLUBHOUSE

Request to waive building permit fees for the relocations of a building to 21401 Madrona Ave. to serve as a clubhouse for the Torrance Mounted Police, was made to the City Council this week.

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Parents of Killed Boy Sue Driver

Although cleared of criminal responsibility, a Torrance engineer will be sued for \$152,000 by the parents of a boy killed in an auto accident.

The suit filed yesterday in Ingewood Superior Court, asserts that Bruno Joseph Uberti, 38, of 4029 W. 184th St., operated his vehicle negligently, causing the death of Jose Medrano, 6.

The boy was fatally injured when he was struck by Uberti's car on Plaza del Amo adjacent to Torrance High School on Feb. 20, the complaint, filed by Boris S. Woolley asserts.

Uberti was cleared of criminal responsibility by a coroner's inquest Monday.

The parents of the youngster, Mr. and Mrs. Dick Medrano, of 283 Plaza del Amo, claims \$51,000 punitive damages in addition to general damages of \$101,000.

The youngster, a pedestrian, was the city's fourth traffic fatality of the year.

Punitive damages are sought on grounds that the vehicle was operated in a careless manner in a school zone, the complaint alleges.

Engineer to Take Work Post

Wade E. Peebles, 38, public works director and city engineer of Ingewood for nearly seven years, will take over as public works director April 1, it was learned today.

He was top man on the eligibility list and will succeed John V. Russell, who has been seeking retirement for some time.

A native of San Diego, Peebles is an SC graduate and received his master's degree in civil engineering from that university. He is presently studying for a doctorate in public administration.

Before he came to Ingewood, the official was a supervising design engineer for the State Division of Highways, where he served for eight years.

He was a first lieutenant in the Army Corps of Engineers during World War II, is past president of the City and County Engineers Association and a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers.

As public works director, he will be in charge of the engineering, building, street and park departments.

Driver in Fatal Traffic Mishap Goes on Trial

Jury trial of the driver whose passenger was killed in an auto crash Jan. 3, will start March 28 in Ingewood Superior Court.

Roger Kenneth Thomas, 27, of 2709 Mathews St., Redondo Beach, is charged with manslaughter and felony drunk driving.

One of the three passengers in the vehicle at the time it rammmed into a power pole on 190th St. near Hawthorne Blvd., died of injuries she received in the crash.

She was Manola Thomas, 20, of 18903 Hawthorne Blvd., no relation to the defendant.

Bay Leaders Urge Tough Dope Law

A "tough" narcotics bill, pushed by the Elks Lodges of Torrance, Gardena and Redondo Beach, will be studied by a legislative sub-committee.

A delegation of 65 South Bay officials, made a flying trip to Sacramento Monday to press request that a law making it mandatory that convicted narcotics peddlers be given 30-year minimum sentences, be adopted.

Torrance delegates included Councilmen George Bradford, Victor Benstead and Willys Blount, Assistant Police Chief M. H. Porter, Roger Holmes, Elks exalted ruler and Joseph E. Yates, chairman of the narcotics program.

RECEIVE J.A. AWARDS

Darrel Boyko and Margaret Palmer of North High School will be presented with Junior Achievement junior executive awards.

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