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A Worthy Cause

An Editorial

Next Tuesday night Torrance residents will have an opportunity to meet many notables of the sports world and at the same time do their bit to aid a worthy cause.

The Sports Night at the Civic Auditorium was arranged to raise funds for a therapy pool at the Harlan Shoemaker School for Handicapped Children in San Pedro which takes care of youngsters in the Torrance area.

The pool will cost \$65,000, of which the Torrance volunteers under direction of George Vico have pledged to raise one-fourth.

Since the Los Angeles Schools will take care of the operation of the pool once it is built, this will be the only fund drive needed and contributors will not be asked to donate again.

The pool is vitally needed to help the handicapped youngsters, but since the money can not be paid out of public funds, the campaign to finance it is purely on a volunteer basis with all proceeds going directly to the pool fund.

The success of the fund drive depends to a great extent on success of the Sports Night, which promises a good show to adults and youngsters.

We feel the pool is a very worthy project and hope that as many residents as possible will attend the show.



AID HANDICAPPED—Roy Campanella will be among numerous noted sports figures to appear in the Civic Auditorium Tuesday at 7 p. m. in a Sports Night benefit to raise funds for a therapy pool at the Harlan Shoemaker School for Handicapped Children.

Sports Night to Aid Fund Drive for School Pool

Roy Campanella, who was paralyzed in an automobile accident, will be one of many sports figures to appear at a benefit to aid handicapped children to be held Tuesday at 7 p. m. in Civic Auditorium.

George Vico, chairman of the fund raising drive to furnish a therapy pool to the Harlan Shoemaker School in San Pedro, said that proceeds from the Sports Night, will go to financing the project.

Others who will appear are Jon Arnett, Johnny Lindell, Dr. Sammy Lee, Frank Kelleher, Les Richter, Kenny Washington and Beans Reardon.

Admission will be \$2 for adults and \$1 for children.

In addition to the entertainment, free soft drinks and peanuts will be distributed. Tickets for the event will be on sale in the auditorium box office, at Levy's Department Store and the Chamber of Commerce office, or from Vico.

In the meantime, Sam Levy, co-chairman of the campaign to raise \$16,500 in Torrance, announced that Harvey Aluminum had made a contribution of \$500 to the campaign, describing it as a "worthy cause."

Model Car Races Slated at Parks

Model racing cars will compete in area eliminating contests at five parks Saturday, according to the Recreation Department.

The tiny wooden autos will race down ramps in El Nido Park, 9:45 a. m.; Sea-Aire and McMaster Parks at 1 p. m.; WALTERIA and Torrance Parks at 3 p. m.

The first four winners of each of three age classifications will be eligible to compete in a city-wide series on May 9. This will be in the parking lot at the rear of City Hall, 8081 Torrance Blvd.

Airport Staff Not Too Large

Personnel at Torrance Municipal Airport is just about the strength it should be and is not overstuffed, Chapman L. Bone, assistant city manager, informed the City Council this week.

His report counters a statement by a councilman who asked an investigation to determine if over-staffing is not one of the problems facing airport finance. Bone did suggest that the



RAT RACE—Sherrill Smith, 17, right, holds "Brigitte," while Skipper Antrim, 16, handles "Sophia" in classic rat race staged in the South High School biology lab. Test was to determine if grammar school rodent could beat high school rat. —Press Photo

Huge Real Estate Deal Investigated by Police

Big Spender Buys House, Cheats Seller

A smooth-talking "race horse owner" is the subject of a \$5000 warrant issued here after he disappeared with \$50 following a big real estate deal.

Wanted by police is Thomas Charles Vienna, 51, described by police as a glib con-artist with an arrest record dating back 34 years.

The victim, a North Torrance real estate saleswoman, said the suspect vanished with \$50 he promised to wager on a horse race the day after he bought a \$46,500 mansion in Palos Verdes Estates.

The woman, whose name was not disclosed by Det. Sgt. Mickey Fischer and Gene Erbetta, said the man visited her office earlier this month and asked to see some "better" homes. Money was no object, he told her.

Home Hunting
Both of them got into her car and toiled down to Palos Verdes where the lady showed Vienna some homes for sale.

When they reached a swanky place on the peninsula, the client became interested and made an inspection of the home. He liked it he told her, but he would make up his mind after lunch.

The saleswoman and customer repaired to one of the better eateries where they had a delicious lunch. The lady volunteered to pick up the tab, and Vienna made no pressing objections.

They then returned to the house, and the client decided to buy it on the spot. He wrote out a check for the full amount and an agreement to go into escrow.

More Land
After the sale was consummated, he asked her about some ranch land around the area, approximately 100 acres. Price no object, he assured her again.

By this time the real estate woman became curious about his lavish spending, and hinted she would like to know how he did it.

It's easy, he assured her. He had important connections at the tracks. Always won. As a matter of fact he could pay for the house in one day's wagering.

As a matter of fact, she had been so nice, he would be happy to cut her in on a good deal.

Takes Money
The woman said she had a spare \$50 she might bet, but that was all. Vienna took the money, asked her to borrow some more, and then requested to be driven to downtown Los Angeles.

He disappeared in the vicinity of the bus terminal, and that was the last the real estate woman heard from him.

She was out her \$50, lunch for two, and, of course, the check for the house sale also bounced.

Municipal Judge Otto B. Willett issued a warrant for Vienna charging him with felony petty theft and two counts of forgery.

Schools to Get U. S. Aid

Torrance Unified School District will get a U. S. Treasury check in the amount of \$160,379 in the next few days for Federal assistance with current expenditures, Congressman Cecil R. King announced in Washington today.

The award is under Public Law 874, which provides financial assistance for schools in Federally affected areas.

A total tentative entitlement of \$251,575.98 has been allocated for the Torrance Unified School District by the Department of Health, Education and Welfare for fiscal 1959. Additional payments, however, will have to be prorated at approximately 85 per cent of the entitlement from funds available.

Congressman King stated that the money was secured by application submitted by J. H. Hull, superintendent of the Torrance Unified School District.

'Lack of Interest' Blamed for Dropping Beauty Event

The Miss Torrance contest, viewed as a preliminary to the Miss America pageant, has been canceled because of "lack of interest." Announcement that the event is being dropped was made Tuesday by Bob Vroman, acting committee chairman of the sponsoring Junior Chamber of Commerce.

Substitute City GHQ Is Requested

Proposal that an alternate site of government be established at Torrance Municipal Airport will be recommended to the City Council.

The Civil Defense Commission urged that the city headquarters should be moved to a proposed new fire station at the airport in case the civic center is attacked.

The recommendation was made after the commission closely questioned Lt. Bob Wright on the manpower and equipment available from the police department during a disaster.

Wright told the commission that in the event the police station is taken out of action, the department intends to carry out emergency operations from its pistol range in South Torrance. However, both places are above ground and are thereby more exposed.

The officer said that in addition to the regular complement of police personnel, the department can call on 30 reservists and the Mounted Police.

The city is presently planning to construct a fire station at the airport to handle both the airport and South Torrance. It was suggested by the commission that a basement be constructed at the location. Possibility of obtaining federal assistance in the project was also discussed.

Seek Advance Rent

Advance rental payments by airport tenants who are late in paying their rent, was suggested by Jerome I. Scharfman, city finance director, this week.

He said that some tenants are continuously late in paying their rent, although not so late as to be delinquent.

shifts of the airport manager and his assistant overlap to give greater coverage.

Pipe Tiff Erupts at Council

A lengthy City Council session, marked by bickering among members and department heads briefly exploded into angry words with a property owner.

Ted Koletos, who described himself as the third largest land owner in Torrance, irately protested a \$1000 charge to extend a drain in front of his property.

Although he agreed to all other conditions imposed by Wade E. Peebles, public works director, Koletos said he should not have to pay since he had donated \$40,000 of property to the city to extend Lomita Blvd. at Hawthorne Blvd.

"This is rotten . . . you're trying to steal my property," he shouted.

The heated discussion also led to a firm denial by Councilman Robert Jahn that he will be the builder, or had anything to do with proposed construction on Koletos' land.

The council finally agreed to pay for the cost of the pipe after Mayor Albert Isen at one point threatened to have Koletos ejected from the room.

In other highlights, the Council agreed to lease nine acres at the airport for a commercial development. It balked however, at approving a lease with Eltinge and Associates until they receive a financial statement.

It announced that it will discuss relaxation of the moonlight ban next Tuesday, and also rescinded a policy of not approving subdivisions in the Victor Precinct unless the developer agrees to use city water.

The mayor protested the action vehemently.

"Let's get the white flag up, we're surrendering completely," he declared.

Sell Parking Permits

Sale of all-day parking permits on city owned parking lots was approved by the City Council Tuesday.

Under the arrangement recommended by the Traffic Commission, decals permitting car owners to park all day without fear of citations, will be sold by the Chamber of Commerce for \$4 a month.

Bullet Damage

A \$50 claim for damage caused by a stray bullet allegedly fired by a Torrance policeman, was filed by John Frederick of 1553 W. 220th St.

He claimed the shot fired March 18, caused minor damage to the paint and woodwork.

PRAT FALL

Clowning around had fatal results for Jestu, Sunday. A forward flip at the opening parade of the North Torrance Little league netted the Roadium Drive-In Clown two fractured ankles.

Brigitte Shows Even Rats Enter Rat Races

BY BRIGETTE
As Told to Kurt Liepman

I guess I'm pretty smart, even though I never got beyond the second grade.

Even Mr. Grant Jones, the biology instructor at South High School, told me I was good, even compared with rats that had enjoyed all the advantages of a high school education.

You see, Thursday I competed with two other rats in running through a maze, and I tell you, it was tough. Thought I'd never find the cheese at the end of it.

I guess I got involved in the rat IQ test when Bill Liepman, the son of the Torrance Press managing editor, found out about the speed in which rats learn their way through a maze in a test held at Newton School recently.

He immediately claimed that I could do better.

Well, Thursday afternoon I was taken to South High School to compete against two other rats, Marilyn and Sophia.

Although the automobile ride shook me up pretty badly, I had my nerves under control when I was shoved into the maze for the first time in my life.

Every place I looked there were huge walls around me, and I nearly suffered from claustrophobia. Finally I saw a way out, and I made turn after turn 'til I got out of that confounded place and to the cheese and a Frito. It took two minutes and 10 seconds.

Before I had a chance to finish it, I was put back into the maze again, but this time I got faster by 10 seconds. You see,

even though I was born in an elementary school where my parents were experiments in a nutrition test, I'm perfectly capable of learning.

This time at least I got to eat my cheese and Frito.

One of the high school rats, Marilyn (she was white, too), had been through the maze several time before, including once just before the test. It took her 55 seconds, even though she had all that practice!

The other one was black and white and named Sophia. (Amazing, how we're all named after movie stars!) She had never been through the maze before, and it took her four minutes, almost double my first time.

Mr. Jones told me I was real bright to get through in a little over two minutes. Usually it takes four to five minutes the first time.

Frankly, I don't know what the tests prove, except perhaps that I'm college material, or maybe even that I could become the first rat to be shot up to the moon in a rocket.

I will admit though, that I like cheese and Fritos, even if I have to work hard to get them.



TORRANCE DIPLOMAT—All decked out in formal clothes is Charles H. Wortham, who was appointed Torrance's special ambassador of goodwill to Kenya, which he will visit in June. Wortham, formerly mayor of Redondo Beach, wasn't quite sure what type of clothes protocol requires, so he put on these duds, including a fez. —Press Photo

Seek New Test for Engineer

Recommendation that the eligibility list for city engineers be tossed out and a new examination called, was recommended Tuesday by the City Manager George Stevens.

He said that the top three candidates were interviewed by himself and Wade E. Peebles,

WIN BANK AWARDS

Two Narbonne High School students, Kathy Reap and Ivar Tombach, have won first place honors in the Bank of America Achievement Awards.

director of public works, and found lacking in qualifications.

Ronald W. Bishop, has served as acting engineer since resigning from the job in order to spend his time preparing plans for city storm drains.



FIRST-HAND ACCOUNT—Giving her eye-witness account of the rat race she entered in South High School contest is Brigitte, who says that a second grade education did not cramp her style in competing with high school rates. —Press Photo