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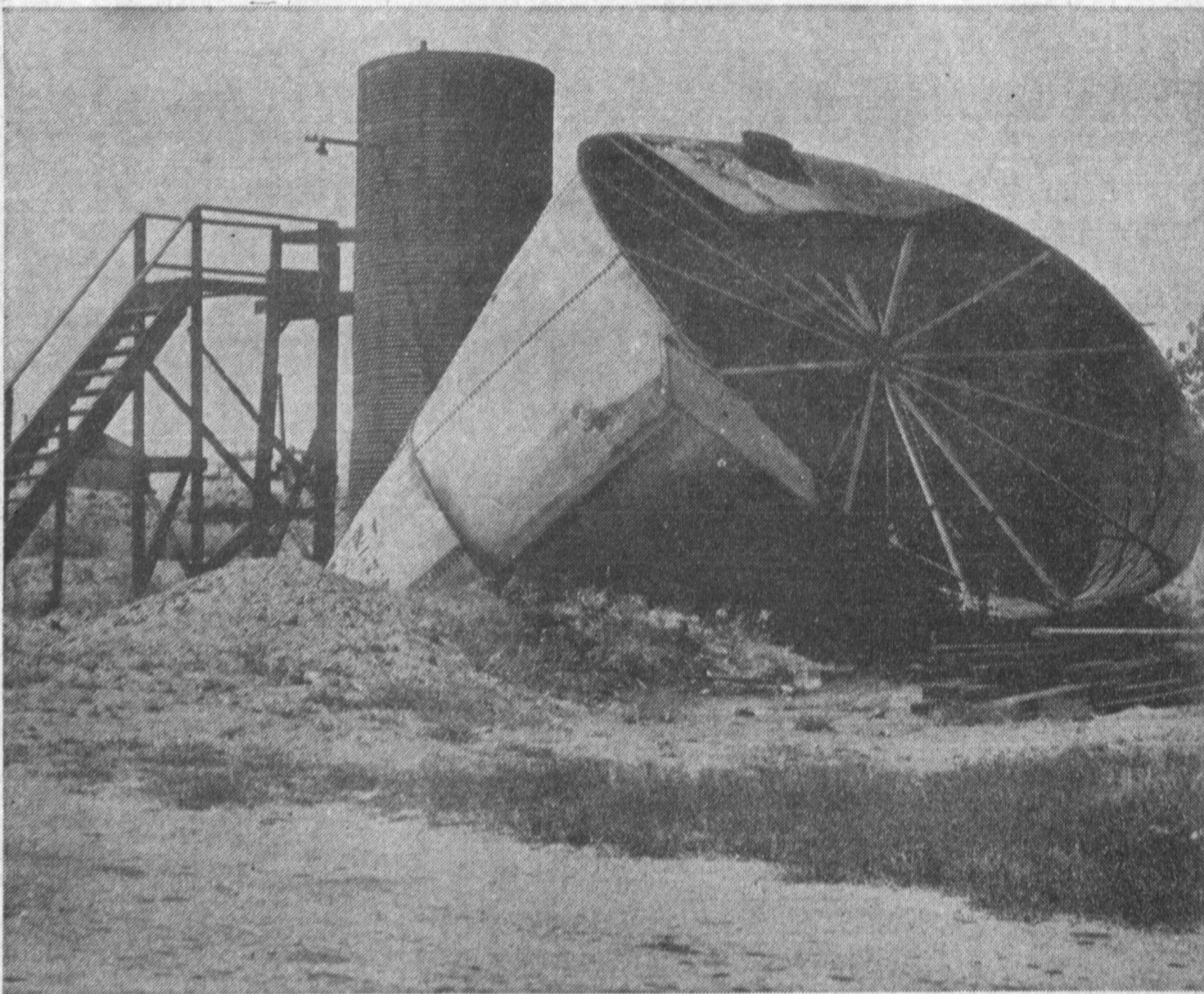
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South Torrance Section Oil Wells Need Cleanup

An Editorial

As long as the City Council is going to act on banning oil derricks soon, it should open its eyes to the shanty town appearance of a large section of South Torrance.

A trip through the oil pumping area will not only reveal a large number of rusty tin sheds, high weeds and messy equipment, but actually hazardous conditions.

Although the city ordinance clearly states that all moving parts of an oil well should be surrounded by a six-foot chain link fence, some operators have made only token compliance with the law, and apparently gotten away with it.

Some of the wells which lack proper protection are in the vicinity of the Howard Wood School, and could easily become the scene of a tragedy.

City officials charged with enforcing the oil well laws, from City Manager George Stevens down, should not wait until a child is injured or perhaps killed by inadequately protected moving machinery.

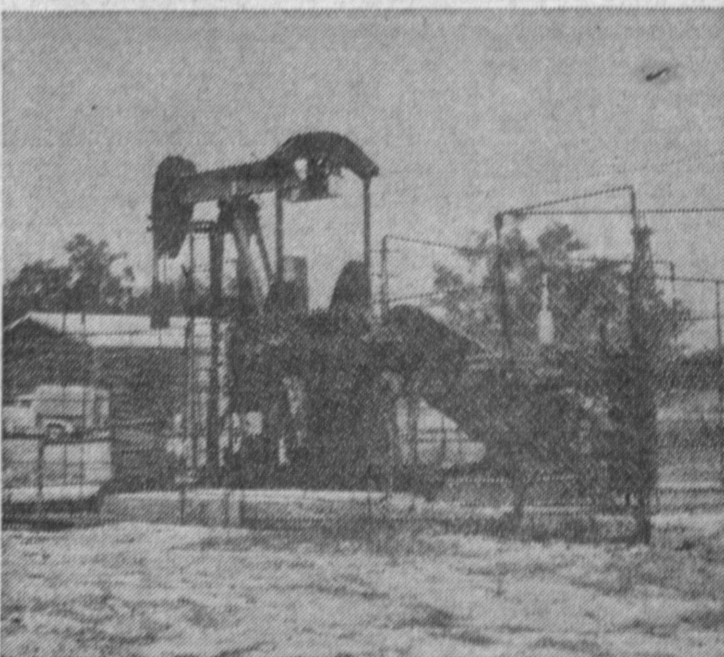
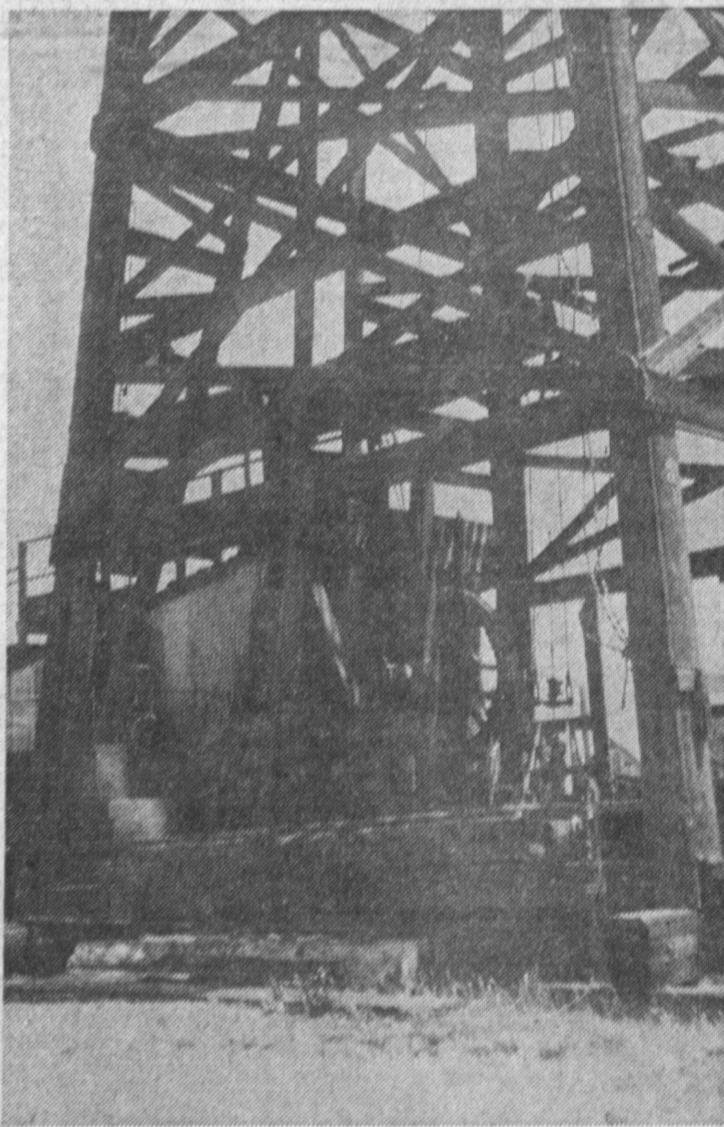
At the same time there seems little excuse for the hobo-jungle appearance of many wells with their rusty, broken-down sheds and filthy equipment which stand surrounded by attractive new homes.

It is true that the oil wells have been in South Torrance a lot longer than most of the houses built there in the past few years. It is also true that some responsible oil operators have done their best to make their equipment as safe and attractive as they are able.

We don't feel that persons who are making a living in the oil fields should be driven out of business.

But we do believe that if they want to continue a good neighbor policy with residents, they should do their utmost to make their equipment safe and spruce up their wells, even to the point of landscaping them.

But until city officials buckle down to the task of seeing that this is done, South Torrance will be plagued by a shanty town in its midst.



DANGEROUS AND UNSIGHTLY—These photos taken this week in the South Torrance oil district clearly indicate the unsightly appearance, and in some cases actually hazardous conditions that exist. From top, pictures show a collapsed storage tank on an abandoned drill site; unfenced machinery inside an old derrick; a safely fenced, clean appearing pumping unit; ugly old tin sheds in near a new house, and an operating well which does not appear to comply with the city ordinance for fencing.



—Press Photos

Angler, Deputy Hurt in Tumble from Cliff

Victim's Rescuer Collapses

A Torrance angler was seriously injured in a 200-foot fall down a cliff, and a deputy sheriff who assisted him collapsed after the rescue.

In Pacific View Hospital is Bert E. Plumstead, 65, 22121 Grace St., who suffered head injuries when he lost his footing while heading down an embankment in Palos Verdes Peninsula between Marineland and Point Vicente.

Deputy Sheriff Sherman Block, 34, collapsed from exhaustion when he climbed to the top of the cliff following his second trip.

He had climbed down the steep embankment the first time to ascertain what was needed by Plumstead. After he struggled back to the top, he made a second trip with ambulance attendants to bring the fall victim up.

At this point he suddenly fainted from exhaustion and was taken to Pacific Medical Center.



LANDMARK DISAPPEARS—Like a house of cards, the old Carson home at 21326 South Normandie Ave., collapsed this week under the hammers and bulldozers of the wreckers. The house in which Victor Carson was born and in which he lived until a few days ago, was originally built by his father, the late John M. Carson, in 1891 at Spencer and Madrona Sts. With the inauguration of the Pacific Electric, it was moved to its present site in 1902. Now it is being razed to make way for a subdivision in conjunction with 57 adjacent acres.

—Press Photo

Water Merger Sought

An economical way to improve their water system was claimed by a spokesman for the Narbonne Ranch Water Co. No. 3 this week.

Harold F. LaMour, vice president of the mutual water company, who is also president of the South Torrance Home Owners Association, said that sale of the water company to the Dominguez Water Co. would solve the problem of the area.

He said that Dominguez is interested in purchasing the Narbonne firm, but is "reluctant to proceed without the knowledge and approval of the City Council."

LaMour pointed out that if the sale is approved all the way around, it will serve a triple purpose.

He said that owners of Narbonne will receive a prorated share of the profits from the sale, be relieved of the expenses of an assessment district, and will have adequate water pressure and fire safety.

Portions of South Torrance served by Narbonne have been subject of a building ban clamped on the area by the City Council on grounds that the low water pressure constitutes a fire hazard.

During the past the Narbonne stockholders have also discussed annexation to the city water system or to the County District No. 13.

JEWELRY THEFT

A gold watch and a \$5000 diamond-studded ring was reported stolen from his home by Robert Ward Sadler, 23, 1746 W. 252nd St., Lomita, according to deputy sheriffs. The victim, a waiter, said the jewelry was taken from a dresser drawer.

Horse Rustling Trio Headed off at Pass

A posse caught up with a trio of teenaged horse rustlers, heading them off at the pass before they could get to Texas.

"Marshal" Gus Rethwisch, head of the juvenile bureau, announced that the young badmen were spotted at Silverado Canyon, Orange County, Wednesday night and returned home.

The boys, aged 16, 15 and 12, left home last Saturday and rustled two mounts from a corral at 4700 Emerald St. The oldest boy had a horse of his own.

Torrance lawmen received a tip that the boys were found Wednesday night, and have made a date with them to be questioned.

Before leaving, the boys proclaimed their intention to go to Texas and become cowboys.

2200 to Graduate in June

Graduation ceremonies for nearly 2200 students in the Torrance Unified School District will be held on June 9, 10 and 11, according to Torrance school officials.

Some 660 seniors, 1370 eighth graders and 160 adult school students will get their sheepskins during that three-day period. Adult graduates and vocational nursing graduates will lead on Tuesday, June 9, with 8 p.m. graduation exercises.

Five elementary schools have scheduled Wednesday, June 10, graduation dates. Jefferson's will be at 6:30 p.m.; Seaside's and Anza's at 7 p.m., and Torrance Elementary and Meadow Park at 7:30 p.m.

North High
North High School will hold its graduation at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, June 11, while Torrance High will have its ceremonies at 8 p.m. the same night. Since it has no seniors, South High will have no graduation ceremonies. Elementary graduations set for June 11 are as follows:

Casimir, 4 p.m.; Hamilton and Madrona, 4:30 p.m.; Edison and Carr, 5 p.m.; Parkway, Crenshaw, Calle Mayor and Yukon, 5:30 p.m.; Arlington, 5:45 p.m.; Marquardt, 6 p.m.; Hillside, Fern-Greenwood and Welteria, 6:30 p.m.; Wood, Perry, Steele, Sepulveda and Newton, 7 p.m.; Flavian, 7:30 p.m., and Riviera, 8 p.m.

Diploma Awards
Handing out diplomas at the various schools will be Clinton Cooke, Joseph Arnold, William C. Boswell Jr., Walter Garbrant and Mrs. Grace Wright, school board members; Superintendant (Continued on page three)

Jaycees Drop Word Battle Over Miss Torrance Contest

The Junior Chamber of Commerce will neither make a public apology nor a reply in the battle of words over the failure of the Miss Torrance Beauty Contest.

The apology was asked by James Van Dyck, director of the Torrance Area Youth Band, who in a letter expressed resentment over remarks made by Bob Vroman, acting chairman of the Jaycee committee in charge of the contest, which was cancelled because only three girls entered.

The bandmaster took exception to a published statement by Vroman, who charged failure to arouse interest in the event was due to handling of the pageant last year under sponsorship of the Youth Band.

"The whole thing is childish. We all live in a big city and we're all grown men," snapped Ted Hill, chairman of the Jaycee committee, in announcing that his group would preserve silence on the subject.

Police Mauler to Face Trial

Harold Eugene Ginn, 26, will be tried May 27 on a battery charge and a complaint that he resisted arrest will also be filed at that time.

Ginn was arrested Tuesday after he assertedly knocked down a resident in an unprovoked attack and later tussled with two detectives who arrested him.

He was also questioned in the killing of two El Segundo policemen because Ginn fits the general physical description of the suspect.

