

# GROUP CHARGES TEACHERS GAGGED OVER MULTIGRADE

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### Torrance Tot Beaten in Movie Here

Lennox Man Held; Mother Says It's Not the First Time

A 27-year-old Lennox man was arrested by Torrance police Friday night after a mother reported he had beaten her baby in the rest room of a drive-in theater.

Charles James Harrington, of 11217 Irwin St. was griled on the charge by juvenile officers before making bail yesterday.

Jo Ann Belanger, 14929 Freeman, said she had gone to the movie with Harrington, who about 8 p.m. took her little boy, Timothy, age 2, to the rest room.

She said she did not notice bruises on his face and things until after conclusion of the show. She took the tot to a medical center and called police from there.

She told them Harrington had beaten the child before.

### Bradford Asks Better Break

Councilman George Bradford came out solidly for free enterprise last week during discussion of an airport lease.

When Councilman Nick Drile observed greater profits to the businessman should be more rent for the city, Bradford exploded. "A man pioneers a business, takes all the risks, then we try to raise the rent and penalize him. You do it all the time," he told the council.

### CANCER PANEL TUESDAY TO BE PUBLIC

A symposium on cancer to be conducted Tuesday night by a panel of doctors will be open to the public.

The event, to be held at Temple Menorah, will be aimed at early detection of cancer symptoms by the layman.

The following doctors will speak: Matthew J. Ellenhorn, Gene Kaufman, Arthur Rich, Bernard Rivo, and William Nussbaum.

The panel will follow a dinner for the temple Men's Club, which will start at 6:30.



HAPPY DAY—Doug Trowbridge and Floyd Lee, president and treasurer of South Torrance Lions, wouldn't be so jovial if they'd look around. Little Anne Peavy and the Harry Carpenters' Boxer, Max, dropped by to see what's new in concrete. Lions are preparing to install plaque after pouring 2100 lineal feet of cement sidewalks in Los Arboles Park.

### Torrance Council to Be Host for League of Cities

The Torrance City Council will be host to the Los Angeles division of the League of California Cities for a quarterly social gathering Thursday.

Mayor Albert Isen announced the event, to be held at the Jump'n Jack, will be Irish all the way.

Hal Peavy, the Great Gildersleeve who started his famous radio and TV career on the Fibber McGee show, will be the principal entertainment. Irish ditties will be sung by the South Bay Four, a barber-shop quartet.

After a short business meeting, Judge Joe Raycraft of the Long Beach bench, a renowned after-dinner speaker, will talk on "Your Courts."

Officials from 68 cities in Los Angeles county are expected to attend.



ROVER DIGS THE SCENE—Pat German shepherd helps bulldozer clear site for Security-First National Bank's new branch at El Prado and Cravens. Residents will miss free parking enjoyed since Christmas and dog will miss last central digging ground.

### City Firemen to March for Y Thursday

Entire Department to Devote Six Nights of Their Own Time

(See Editorial, Page 5)

Torrance Fire Fighters Thursday will answer the four-alarm call to assist youth of the community.

In a proclamation issued by Mayor Albert Isen, chairman of the 1960 YMCA support campaign, March 17 through March 23 has been designated as the week for the "Fire Fighters March for the Torrance YMCA."

Fire Chief J. J. Benner announced that under direction of Engineer Sam Martin and Fireman Richard DeArmitt, chairman, the Fire Fighters will volunteer their off-duty time for six nights for a house-to-house canvass as the principal phase of the campaign.

"The Torrance YMCA is facing a real challenge as it enters 1960," said DeArmitt. "This local youth organization, serving boys and girls and many adults also, needs additional money in order to grow with the greatly expanding youth needs of our city. All money collected by the Fire Fighters will be used only in Torrance."

Isen announced \$16,000 has been pledged to the campaign.

Thirty-three citizens have joined the YMCA's Century Club, limited to 100 memberships. They are Scott F. Albright, Hilip Badder, Douglas Baldwin, Robert Baldwin, Lew Broatch, Richard Brown, Danny Butcher, Charles Cake, Douglas Cannon, Clara Conner, Robert Finch, Daniel Francis, Lester Foster, W. A. Felker, George Heaton, and P. I. Haddan.

Others are Albert Isen, Bert Lynn, Sam Levy, John Melville, Wing Mar, John Nursall, Vol Melitich, Mary Pasac, Allen Pyeatt, Rollin Smith, Paul Shinoda, Bill Shawyer, Edward Raphael, Ray Watt, Joe Wilcox, Ross Yamahata, and Don Wilson.

### Claim School Aides Protest Far Too Much

'We're Getting Snow Job,' Leader Charges, Says Facts to Be Told

Is Torrance's highly touted Little Red Schoolhouse all it's cracked up to be? Are teachers being gagged and threatened with reprisals if they say anything but good about the multigrade system? Can any education system be so free from flaws that its adherents can find not one iota of fault with it?

An informal group of Torrance parents is in the process of finding out.

Several of the group, which comprises about 12 mothers and fathers, attended a meeting at Newton School last week to hear proponents of the multigrade concept try to sell greater confidence in it.

They declared that the speakers were so consumed with praise for the system that no answers were provided for questions they raised, such as: "Have teachers been muzzled?" "It has been reported many teachers are against the multigrade system. Why?"

The investigating body, which has held meetings at the home

of H. M. Christopher, 148 Vista del Parque, has no preconceived notion of what its final report and recommendations—whether made to the school board of the voters—may be.

It simply wants answers—good or bad. If the system is meritorious, it will say so—and there is considerable opinion that it may be.

But the group does feel something is lacking in any system that seems to require such a wealth of adulation and defense.

The investigators are socially and fiscally fixed so no one is going to scare them off or dissuade them.

(Continued on Page A-3)

### Can I Successfully Teach the Multigrade?

AS A TEACHER OF GRADES ONE, TWO, AND THREE:

1. How can individual attention be given each first grader when teaching time must be divided among three grades?

2. How can I teach spelling to the third grade, a different list to the second grade, and at the same time teach the sound of consonants to the first graders so that they may later learn to spell?

3. If my years of experience in teaching reading skills has been concentrated in the third grade, will I be as competent in teaching the first grade as the other teacher who has her years of experience in that grade? Will I find time to study the second grade manuals to teach that grade efficiently? What types of seat work will I be able to provide that will not be just busy work when I must prepare for three levels plus groups within those levels? Will my little ones be able to work independently and form good work habits during the time I am busy with the other grades?

4. In selecting subjects for social studies, films, and even stories at story time, will we choose ones for the first grade or the third grade? What field trips can we take when very few places who take third graders will accept younger ones?

5. If I keep the same children for three years, how can I keep from repeating subjects? Will I have enough originality to hold their interests? Do I have enough tricks for motivation to last three years? If I invite my parents to programs this year will I be able to plan entirely different programs for the next year? and the next?

6. Will the third-graders enjoy folk dancing with the first graders? Will they be content to play simple games during supervised play that we should give the first graders to develop their coordinations? If we vote on activities, will the second grade ever vote for the interests of the first grade? Isn't it the normal thing for them to vote with the older ones? Is it such an advantage for the third-graders to be leaders when the ones they lead are younger?

7. Would we dare retain a child when it would mean he would be that much older than the new first-graders coming in? Would we ever hope to double promote a deserving child when it would put him in the higher group that contains sixth graders?

8. Can I continuously make adjustments from all state texts and from all standardized procedures that are set up by experts according to age patterns and single grade units?

9. Will I have more chalkboard space that I will so desperately need?

10. How do I know if I devote every ounce of my strength and every talent that I possess to this system that it is any better? Will it truly benefit each child? Will I be able to meet the expectations of parents who are hoping for "that certain something?"

—NAME WITHHELD



CRASH ON CRENSHAW—Occupant of car above, Ruth H. Sutton of Lynwood, was sent to Harbor Hospital after a collision at 164th St. and Crenshaw Friday afternoon. Driver of the other vehicle was Jerry T. Stevenson of 16802 Glenburn.



ON THE MARCH—Sam Martin, engineer, and Dick DeArmitt, fireman, show their slogan for YMCA drive with their poster boy, Gary Sprankling. Mayor Isen and Fire Chief J. J. Benner join with slogan "Be a stockholder; invest in youth."