

\$50,000 Demanded in Sump Drowning

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Residents Defeat Ski-Run Proposal

Boy's Parents Sue City for \$50,000

Negligence Charged in Sump Drowning Near South High

Parents of 10-year-old Ronald Middlekauf, who drowned after climbing a fence into a sump at South High School, are suing the city and Torrance Unified School District for \$50,000.

The suit charges negligence and carelessness.

Named as defendants are John Lucas, principal of South High; Myrl Rupel, Calle Mayor School principal; Lilbourne Rice, chief groundsman for the school district; Robert Crosby, district director of operations; Harry Van Bellehem, recreation director; and 20 others.

The plaintiffs indicated that more than the original \$50,000 will be asked when and if the case comes to trial.

Upon denial of the suit by school and city officials, the suit is expected to be filed.

Funeral Rites Conducted for Kenneth Arnold

Funeral services for Kenneth D. Arnold, 34, of 22212 Dolores St., Torrance, were conducted yesterday in the Colonial Chapel, Hardin & Flanagan Mortuary.

Mr. Arnold died Saturday at the Little Company of Mary Hospital, following a lingering illness.

He was a native of Colorado, but had lived in California and the Torrance area for the past 23 years.

He was an active member of the First Methodist Church. For the past six years he had been service manager of the Mike McCarthy Motors of Los Angeles.

He leaves his wife, Darlene; a daughter, Terry; two sons, Steven and Butch; and his mother, Mary Craig of Yucaipa.

Interment was in Inglewood Park Cemetery.



QUEENLY REBELLION—Miss Torrance demurs, having just about given her last ribbon-cutting smile for the dear old city. Her next grin will be one of sympathy for a new Miss Torrance, who must have stamina to stand the schedule.

A LASS AND A LACK

Must Queen Betty Reign From Here to Eternity?

Wee Betty Baker's an old queen—and weary of it—at 18. She would like to abdicate, but there is no one to abdicate to. After she was elected Miss Torrance, the electorate went out of the election business, leaving Betty to reign from here to eternity without a successor, heir, or assign.

To suggest that Miss Baker has been less than regal, functional, exquisite, delightful, supportable, and available would be a calumny that could not be countenanced. But the tendency of all Torrance to leave her enthroned till kingdom come reflects an insensibility to Miss Baker's thriving discomfort.

She has presided at quite so many ribbon cuttings, tree plantings, cornerstone layings, ground breakings, dedications, grand openings, parades, fairs, open houses, teas, coffees, martinis, rallies, flower shows, cat shows, baby shows, and anniversaries that there is a distinct possibility Torrance one day might become Baker City, Bakersfield, or Baker Flat, the latter being less likely in light of the queen's topography.

The reign of Betty I has been fraught with excitement.

But queens in this country are annuals, not perennials. It was no more than an oversight—coupled with great appreciation of the incumbent—that precluded election of a replacement.

Miss Baker is functional as well as decorative, and the Chamber of Commerce would be just as happy if she continues to function in the office it pleased the manager to place her.

As anyone who phones the chamber is aware, her voice is sufficient to make him forget why he called. When Betty says, "Good morning; Torrance Chamber of Commerce," it takes a full 20 seconds and sounds like a soft whisper from Robert Lovelace over a background by Delius.

To the proposition of keeping Miss Torrance at her desk, the chamber management will lend its backing and support, sympathy and gratitude to any organization wishing to sponsor election of a queen to take over Betty's arduous photogenic tasks.

There is no need to tie the Miss Torrance contest to the Miss America Pageant or any other function. There is no need for a list of tiresome rules and regulations. Miss Torrance can be any age, married or not. She need not recite Shakespeare or quote Pythagoras, play a harpsichord or mend socks. Her school grades can be D-minus, and she may have 50 parking tickets.

She should, at all costs, convince the judges that in a bathing suit she can be nearly as beautiful as Betty Baker.

The sponsors will be hard pressed to discover a Miss Torrance with all the present queen's advantages, but with the abundance of beauty here, it is worth a try.

Queen Betty has no desire to run for a third term.

Victoria Knolls, Employees of City Jam Council Chamber

Torrance Workers Told Objections Will Be Reviewed by Civil Service

Plans for a huge ski run were abandoned Tuesday as the City Council prepared to hear protests from a huge crowd of residents that jammed the chambers in addition to nearly 200 city employees gathered for a pre-council session.

Well over 300 written objections were received by the council. One letter, from a man in Hollywood, approved the proposal.

Councilman Nick Drae, serving in place of Mayor Isen, read a letter from John Mascola withdrawing the request for a zone variance. The letter did not indicate whether or not another site in the Torrance area will be sought. The ski run, an enclosed surface of real snow, would be the first of its kind in the country.

The proponents expressed disappointment that the project could not be put through in Torrance, but residents raised such a solid wall of objection that it did not appear worth while to fight it through the City Council. The Planning Commission had approved the variance.

Drae permitted the hearing to proceed long enough to call it a hearing, then closed it. The residents contended the plan would destroy their privacy, their view, and calmness, open the area to commercialism and accompanying vandalism, and cut property values by 25%.

The council, cut to five members by absence of Isen and Willys Blount, was treated to probably the largest crowd in recent history.

The pre-council session with city employees lasted into the main meeting, bringing two unusually large crowds together.

Spokesmen for employees unions sought to correct inequities in pay for employees who have been upgraded or who are doing jobs that pay more than their regular salaries.

The efforts were largely in vain, except for assurances by Drae that measures will be worked out through City Manager George Stevens' office with a view to making amendments in the coming budget sessions of the council.

Drae drew hearty rounds of applause when he agreed with union spokesmen that personnel should receive pay for the type of work they do when

filling in on a more expensive job.

With concurrence of the council, he also ordered full vacations for firemen, some of whom have been scheduled for a cut-time leave and others who already have taken short time off.

The remainder of the issues, all contained in Resolution 3913 amending Civil Service rules, were referred back to the Civil Service Commission for the earliest possible action.

Employees had hoped to iron out objections to the amendments before the council. But the body concurred the commission is the place to accomplish this. The Civil Service group was instructed to send recommendations back to the council.

The employees' objections center round seniority computations, hours, pay and time off, vacation definitions, and the question as to whether or not it was legal to by-pass the Civil Service Commission on move-up pay.

Youth Rodeo Drivers Will Compete Sunday

Councilman George Vico will open the Teen-Age Rodeo Sunday at 10 a.m. on Alaska St., it was announced by Vince Benstead of the Torrance Junior Chamber of Commerce.

Participants who will drive in the test are James Maraki, Ron Shopper, Glenn Child, Gary Parks, Joseph Legler, Fred Phillips, Harry Vedder, and Robert Lush.

The course is patterned after the National Truck Rodeo.

The Torrance winner will be sent to the statewide Rodeo, and winners from 50 states will compete for \$4900 in scholarships next August in the national finals at Washington, D.C.

Torrance Man Aids Rescue

Charles C. Miller of Torrance, radio mechanic with Continental Airlines, pulled survivors from a jet airliner that landed in flames at New York Monday.

Miller, 33, lives at 20928 Menlo Ave. He and Arch Long, 32, of Los Angeles, slid through an emergency exit when the plane stopped.

Then they caught passengers in a 10-foot drop from the plane's door. The airliner's nose-wheel assembly folded when the plane landed. Flames and smoke added to the peril of the rescue effort.

Miller will be home today after attending a meeting of the Air Transport Association. Mrs. Miller told The Press.

SCOUT TROOP STUCK WITH BANDAGES

Help. Boy Scout Troop 211 is stuck with first-aid kits galore and will dump them cheap—for \$1 apiece.

The troop bought the kits to resell at a profit for a trip to Catalina this summer.

Few people think they're going to get bitten, scratched, cut, bruised, scraped, or break a leg, so the kits are going begging.

The Scouts will be around town this weekend trying to sell them.

It's pretty sticky, being stuck with all those bandages.

Inside the Press

Little, Pony, and Babe Ruth Leagues are at it again. According to Baseball Commissioner Pat Hogue, more than 3000 Torrance youngsters are in competitive play. Turn to pages 6-7B, you'll find schedules, results, and other data highlighting the activities of youth.

Elsewhere in today's edition:

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Assemblyman to Speak at GOP Opening

Assemblyman Bruce Reagan of the 47th district will speak Monday night at the 68th district Republican headquarters, 1406 Cravens Ave.

The event will mark opening of the headquarters in Torrance.

The speaker will discuss narcotics and the controversy over them during the most recent session of the Legislature, it was announced by Tom Brewer, president of the Torrance Republican Club and area chairman.

Beasley Says Torrance Needs Mayor Pro Tem

Councilman J. A. Beasley Tuesday night suggested it is high time a city the size of Torrance had a Mayor pro tem.

Beasley said the office should be created so papers could be signed and other business transacted.

His remarks were prompted by absence of Mayor Isen during this week's session. Councilman Nick Drae, serving in the Mayor's place, agreed and said the issue should await action by the full council.

YOUNGEST DEMOCRAT — Pretty May King, just turned 21 and registered, is the Torrance Democrats' candidate for hostess at the national convention in Los Angeles this summer. During the event, 250 young women will be hostesses, guides, and expeditors for delegates. The Democrats also took this opportunity to announce their next regular meeting at Higgins Patio, 2217 W. 174th St., Wednesday. Dinner at 7 precedes meeting.

Educator Says U.S., Russian Schools Growing More Alike

Recent changes in Russian education have brought that country's schools closer to those in the United States, especially in technical education.

That was what Dr. C. C. Trillingham, county superintendent of schools, told members of the Torrance Educational Advisory Committee at the group's meeting Monday in the Torrance Masonic Lodge.

He visited Russia last October with 30 other educators.

The most significant thing he saw and heard, Dr. Trillingham said, was abandonment of the 10-year school program in favor of the eight-year program.

There was a feeling in Russia that schools were too academic and isolated from life, he was told.

Now, he said 80% of Russian students get three years of production training in industry after being graduated from the eight-year school.

The top 20% enter universities; others attend night school.

Since most Russian women work, students go to nursery

schools until they are about three years old, he declared. Then, from age 3 to 7, children attend kindergarten. The eight-year school, for students 7 to 15, follows. Then comes either technical training or advanced schooling.

There are only two reasons for failure in class—a weak teacher or a lazy student—Dr. Trillingham noted.

"They do not consider ability at all and stopped giving intelligence tests in 1936," he said. "Everybody gets the same assignment, since theoretically, all are equal."

Should a child do poorly in school, his parents may receive a call from other parents' committees. Should he continue to do poorly, the union may call upon the parents and bring pressure by threatening to cancel their housing permit.

Body-building exercises are part of the curriculum with marching exercises, gymnastics, acrobatics, and tumbling emphasized.

(Continued on page A-2)



TORRANCE GROWTH — While Dr. C. C. Trillingham was presenting Russia's problems at advisory committee meeting,

he stopped to look at some of Torrance's problems. Here Dr. J. H. Hull points to enrollment for the next few years.