

Teachers Open 'Dead Horse' Salary Talks

Torrance Press-Herald

UNEQUALED CIRCULATION AND EDITORIAL COVERAGE

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MATH MEET . . . Carl Wallner, principal of Newton School, presents certificates of honor to Patricia Fuchs, Lynda Tanner, and Dennis Jones. The three students were victors in Newton's "Triggerometry" Mental Math Meets. The quick-math contests were designed to uncover the school's fastest mental mathematicians.

OLD DEAD HORSE?

Teachers Charge Salary Scale Is Worst in Area

Torrance teachers charged that the district is "the worst paying unified school district in the area" and asked for salary hikes of about 6 per cent for the 1965-66 fiscal year Monday evening.

Garth Belknap, president of the Torrance Education Association (TEA), ask members of the Board of Education to adopt salary increases amounting to 1.8 per cent at once, then act on additional requests when the budget is presented in June.

Belknap said current starting salaries in the Torrance schools are "slightly better than average," but charged that the maximum salaries were well below the average. To get an average, Belknap said, teachers compared school districts from Santa Monica to Palos Verdes and included the Los Angeles and Long Beach schools.

TEACHERS ASKED that the present starting salary of \$5,492 be increased to \$5,500. The present maximum of \$10,200 should be raised to \$11,000 to establish a 2 to 1 ratio, Belknap said.

"In addition, it is recommended that an overall increase be made bringing our starting salaries up to \$5,720 and our maximum to \$11,440," Belknap said. Such an increase would be equal to a 4 per cent hike after the adjustment.

"You're starting out with the old dead horse of poorest paying district again," Dr. Kurt Shery, president of the board, told Belknap. "You got away with it once," he added, "but don't ride the poor nag to death."

Teachers said the district should vote the initial increase—the 1.8 per cent—before the April 20 board election and before consideration of the new budget to attract teachers and hold current teachers.

BELKNAP SAID teachers would probably get a substantial increase, and suggested the board act now "while you are hiring teachers for next year."

"I'd bet 100 to 1 on a 5 per cent increase from this board or the next," Belknap said.

Mrs. Kenneth E. Watts told Belknap she was not "prepared to act until after the election." She also said it was "improper" to commit a new board to expenditures for the next fiscal year.

IN A REPORT from the TEA Professional Standards and Teacher Education Committee, the board was urged to "do something" to encourage teachers who have reached the top of the salary scale to continue their education. The report said teachers at the top are discouraged to continue their education at present.

The committee also urged the board to remove a requirement for a master's degree in order to advance to the final step on the salary schedule. Belknap described the requirement as "a petty irritant to scores of fine teachers."

Board members took no action on the request and indicated they would consider salaries only during budget discussions.

Special Session Slated

City Delays Decision On Fate of Last Dairy

A decision on the fate of the dairy is "at least 30 Torrance's last remaining herd of dairy cows was delayed last night until at least Tuesday. City Councilmen hearing evidence in the case closed the public hearing and took the case under advisement.

The council will meet at 7 p.m. next week, one hour earlier than usual, to discuss the matter.

The council has a request for a variance to permit continued operation of Quinn's Dairy, 4016 Del Amo Blvd. Under terms of a city ordinance adopted in 1958, the dairy cows must be removed from the city this year.

ALSO BEFORE the council is a request that the council provide "a reasonable time to depreciate the investment." The petition was filed under a section of the 1959 ordinance which provides for exceptions to the ordinance.

Attorneys George C. Atkinson Jr. and Alex Gorgianian, representing Lester R. Quinn, contend the city must allow the dairy to remain during the "useful economic life of the investment." They introduced testimony to establish the remaining economic life

Atkinson also questioned the application of the agricultural prohibition to the dairy. "This is an integrated commercial process," he said. "Legally, it does not come within the provisions of the ordinance."

HE PRESENTED a petition signed by 571 area residents supporting continued dairy operations "for a minimum of 20 years."

Councilmen listened to the lengthy presentation, then took the matter under advisement. A meeting was scheduled next week to discuss the matter following the end of the public hearing.

City Attorney Stanley Remelmeier and City Manager Edward J. Ferraro had recommended denial of the variance. They were supported by the Planning Department.

Right-of-way and slope easements for the improvement of Del Amo Boulevard, which must begin by July 1 under a county grant of \$150,000, has been involved in the lengthy negotiations. The city has, however, been unable to reach an agreement with Quinn.

Fear 4-Year-Old Lost In Oil Storage Sump

City Manager's Salary Boosted By Councilmen

City Manager Edward J. Ferraro was voted the same 3½ per cent increase given other city employees during last night's meeting of the City Council. The hike is retroactive to Jan. 3.

An earlier move to raise Ferraro's salary to \$23,000 annually was delayed by the council until a survey of all city job classifications and salaries could be made.

"Thank you and my wife thanks you," Ferraro said following adoption of the resolution.

The raise brings the city's salary to slightly more than \$21,000 annually.

In other action, the council:

- Continued to June 29, 1965, a hearing on a change of zone from R-3 to RP for property located at 24224 Madison St. The continuance was granted to permit the planning commission to complete a survey of the area.
- Granted a request from City Clerk Vernon W. Coil for travel to the International Institute of Municipal Clerks in Denver, Colo., May 24-27.
- Approved a resolution urging the State Legislature to approve Assembly Bills 87 and 207 relative to obscene literature.
- Accepted the grant deed to the Lomita Barrow Pit, an area located adjacent to the Lomita city limits near Pacific Coast Highway. The area is to be used for recreational purposes and was purchased from the state.

ECC Pops Concert Saturday

Calvin Greer will direct a pops concert at El Camino College Saturday evening at 8 o'clock. The concert is free to the public.

The 16-piece El Camino state band will be featured. Yvonne Welsch, vocalist with the band, will sing "Jeepers Creepers" and "My Funny Valentine."

James Mack, saxophone soloist, will play "Harlem Nocturne." He is a noted Southland woodwind specialist and instructor at El Camino.

Miss Loretta Nicassio, pianist, will play "Slaughter on Tenth Avenue." In a recent appearance as soloist with the Beach Cities Symphony, she played Gershwin's Concerto in F.

Steve Andrews, jazz stylist and composer of the recent college performance of "Sign of Jonah," will perform with his jazz ensemble.

The Sentimentalists, led by ECC student Steward Ucmem, will conclude the program with such hits as Mancini's "Shot in the Dark" and "Fools Rush In."

Marine Life Meeting Set

Representatives of the science department at the city's four high schools will attend a conference on marine environment at Fullerton Junior College March 26.

Richard L. Anderson, Herbert H. Bue'tgenbach, Walter S. Hillier, and Charles R. Pillet will represent their respective faculties at the conference.



JOINS RACE . . . Lorraine Day, a striking brunette, has entered the "Miss Torrance" contest, bringing the total entrants to 11. Entries will remain open until the first rehearsal at 6:30 Monday evening in the recreation building on Civic Center, Chamber of Commerce officials said.

City Gets Plans for New YMCA

Building plans and specifications for the new Torrance Family YMCA headquarters at 2800 W. Sepulveda Blvd., will be delivered to the city for processing this week, Councilman H. Ted Olson said last night.

Olson described the new YMCA facility as "The most monumental youth structure to be built in the country." He also called the \$725,000 fund drive "a truly commendable effort."

The councilman then asked that the city waive all routine fees in connection with the projects. The fees, Olson said, amount to about \$7,000. City Attorney Stanley Remelmeier was asked to study the request to determine if the city may waive fees without making an unlawful gift of public funds.

Remelmeier will report his findings in two weeks.

Friends Scared, Hold Off Alarm

A 4-year-old Carson area boy was feared drowned late Tuesday when he fell through the roof of a large fuel oil sump near Lomita Boulevard and Neptune Avenue.

Los Angeles County Sheriff's officers reported that Mark Anthony Gutierrez, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jose Gutierrez, 24118 Marbella Ave., apparently had entered the huge tank area with his brother, 9-year-old Henry; and two neighborhood chums, Henry and Allen Schaffer, 9 and 7. Little Mark apparently fell through the covering of the huge oil storage area and fell 30 feet to the oil and water below.

THE BOYS returned home after the 4:30 p.m. accident, but apparently were afraid to report the incident to their parents for nearly an hour, newsmen were told at the scene.

On hand to help in the search Tuesday night were County Fire Department units, Sheriff's deputies, Redondo Beach lifeguards, and officials of Shell Oil Co., operators of the tank sump.

OFFICERS SAID the three surviving youngsters gave conflicting stories about the exact point at which Mark had fallen through the roof of the storage area. An attempt to drain the sump, a procedure which would take several days, was being started by company officials.

To reach the sump roof, the young quartet had to climb over or through two 6-foot fences, up two 25-foot embankments, and across a huge ditch, newsmen were told.

Subdivision Wins Approval

Plans for a 95-acre subdivision on the Palos Verdes Peninsula have been approved by the Regional Planning Commission.

The parcel, located at the northwest corner of Palos Verdes Drive South and Palos Verdes Drive East, will be divided into 240 single-family lots. Great Western Land Co. is the subdivider.

New Stop Signs To Be Installed

Boulevard stop signs marking 220th Street and Dolores Street a four-way stop intersection have been adopted by the Board of Supervisors.

Dolores Street traffic already is required to stop at the intersection and stop signs will be installed on the 220th Street approaches by the County Road Department.

School officials have suspended 469 students during the current year, or about three students for every 200 enrolled in the schools. Last year at this time, 666 students had been suspended.

During February, 92 students were suspended, compared with 132 suspensions in February, 1964.

Assessor 'Tells All' - - -

A series of articles by County Assessor Philip E. Witsen explaining in detail the operations of his office begins today on the Press-Herald editorial page. The assessor's articles will cover a wide range of matters relating to assessment practices. Today's article will be found on Page 2, Section E.

Flames Halt Traffic - - -

Flamed fed by 3,900 gallons of a gasoline-like chemical flowing from an overturned truck tanker tied up a nearby freeway interchange for more than two hours Monday afternoon, causing an estimated 20,000 vehicles to get caught up in a monster traffic jam. Driver Richard Lee Perrins of Los Angeles escaped injury as the huge tanker flipped on the transition road from the northbound Harbor Freeway to the northbound San Diego Freeway. Fire officials let the fuel burn away to eliminate further dangers.

School Fire Contained - - -

Fire apparently started by juveniles who had entered Magruder Elementary School at 4100 W. 185th St., was contained with little damage Sunday morning. Principal Edwin Brown said the flames, started in a book storage area, had been halted before much damage had been done. The school had been damaged in a car crash the day before and the intruders apparently entered through an opening caused by the auto.

Bids Due on Signals - - -

Bids for the improvement of the intersection of Torrance Boulevard and Madrona Avenue will be opened April 6 at 2:30 p.m., City Manager Edward J. Ferraro said last night. The project includes traffic signals, storm drains, and widening of the intersection.



RECRUITING AIDE . . . Robert Lansing (center), star of currently popular "Twelve O'clock High" series, will help Air Force officials swear in a buddy flight of Torrance area cadets Friday afternoon in ceremonies beginning at 2 p.m. at the Rolling Hills Plaza Center. Shown with Lansing here are Sergeants Graham (left) and Whetstone of the local Air Force office.