

New Elementary School Planned for City

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UNDER WATER . . . Two automobiles were trapped under nearly 5 feet of water Monday morning as heavy rains flooded major intersections throughout the city and adjacent areas. County firefighters rescued one person trapped in an automobile at the intersection of Amsler and Dormont Streets, Lamita. The flooding occurred at the Torrance-Lomita city line, closing Crenshaw Boulevard between Lomita Boulevard and Pacific Coast Highway. Key intersections in the North Torrance area were flooded for a time, virtually cutting the city in half. A total of 5.72 inches of rain was reported here between 3:30 p.m. Saturday and 8 a.m. Tuesday and the forecast is for continued showers today. (Press-Herald Photo)

Torrance Teacher Dies In Crash; Rain Blamed

5.72 Inches of Rain Recorded During Storm

A Torrance teacher was killed Sunday when her car skidded into a concrete light standard in front of city Hall, Torrance Boulevard at Maple Avenue. The impact sliced the car in two.

Pronounced dead on arrival at Little Company of Mary Hospital was Jackie L. Pepperdine, 27, of 17817 Crenshaw Blvd., grandniece of George Pepperdine, founder of Pepperdine College.

The mishap which took Miss Pepperdine's life occurred during the heaviest storm to hit Torrance in many years. Rainfall between 3:30 p.m. on Saturday and 8 a.m. Tuesday was logged at 5.72 inches, boosting the season's total to 9.69 inches. The season's total for last year this time was 8.08 inches.

Police said Miss Pepperdine's car apparently was traveling at a high rate of speed down Torrance Boulevard when it reportedly spun out of control about 8:30 a.m. It is believed the car was headed west when the collision occurred.

Police said the front end of the car was resting in the street, while the rear portion was up on the curb wrapped around the light standard. Miss Pepperdine's body was found on the front seat of the vehicle. She became the city's first traffic fatality since Jan. 1.

It was raining at the time of the accident, police said.

MISS PEPPERDINE was graduated with high honors from Westchester High School, and went on to be an honor graduate of Pepperdine College.

At Pepperdine, the victim was president of the Panhellenic Council a songleader, and a member of the student council. She also held membership in Kappa Kappa social sorority; Alpha Gamma women's honorary society; Phi Alpha Theta history honorary fraternity; and Operation Brotherhood. She was listed in Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities.

Miss Pepperdine was teaching at Lindbergh Junior High in (See STORM, Page A-2)



JOSEPH METZGER

Hospital Elects Leaders

Aluminum Workers On Strike

Hopes for early settlement of a strike against Harvey Aluminum, Inc., are dim according to spokesmen for both the company and the striking United Steelworkers.

Some 1,800 members of the union struck the firm Sunday after talks for a new contract fell apart.

Company officials have expressed "surprise" at the strike action and refused further comment.

THE STRIKE is the second in some 3½ years. The first strike lasted four months in 1965 and resulted in recognition of the Steelworkers union. But it was marked by several incidents of violence.

The union, headed by Mrs. Barbara Lee, a crane operator at Harvey, is seeking increases in wages and fringe benefits.

OTHER aluminum firms have agreed to increases of about 97 cents per hour. The last Harvey offer, union spokesmen said, was "about 50 cents an hour."

Mrs. Lee said only about 150 of the 2,200 workers at the plant have crossed picket lines to report to work. There have been no reported incidents in the strike.

Joseph A. Metzger has been elected president of the Advisory Board of Little Company of Mary Hospital, hospital officials announced today.

Metzger, director of industrial relations for Harvey Aluminum, Inc., is a Torrance resident and has served on the hospital's advisory board since 1967. He succeeds C. Blain Shull as chairman.

He is a graduate of St. Louis University Law School, Harvard Business School, and is a member of the American Bar Association, the Industrial Relations Association, the Industry Education Council, and presently serves both as vice chairman and finance chairman of the South Bay District of Boy Scouts.

Other new advisory board members are E. P. Hardin, vice president; David Hayward, second vice president; Joseph Drnovich secretary; and James Visceglia, treasurer.

Board and medical staff members form the nucleus of the Centurion Club which is organized solely for the purpose of supporting the hospital and furthering its aims for health and care in the community.

Three Aides Get New Posts With School District

Three major administrative changes in the Torrance Unified School District were announced here yesterday. One new consultant and two principals were named.

Named to the post of curriculum consultant was Edwin R. Brown, 45, who has been serving as principal at Casimir Elementary School. Robert Scott Gray, a vice principal at Hickory Elementary School, has been named acting principal to succeed Brown.

A new acting principal also was named for Wright Elementary School. He is Paul J. Harenski, 33, vice principal at Howard Wood Elementary School. Harenski will replace William Leahy, who is going on sabbatical leave Feb. 1.

BROWN succeeds Dr. Donald Duncan, who has taken a position with the Los Angeles County Schools office.

The new consultant has been employed by Torrance schools for 15 years. Prior to becoming principal of Casimir School, he served as principal of El Nido School for six months and of Magruder School for six years. He also taught at Casimir School for two and one-half years and was vice principal at both Crenshaw School and Fern-Greenwood School.

A native of Ironton, Ohio, Brown received his bachelor's degree from the University of Southern California, and his master's degree from California State College at Los Angeles. He taught for a year in Lennox before coming to the Torrance Unified School District. Brown is a veteran of World War II. He is married and is the father of two sons, Mark, 11, and Steven, 14.

GRAY, vice principal of Hickory since last July, first became a vice principal in December, 1967, when he was assigned to divide his time between Newton and Riviera Elementary Schools.

A graduate of Stanford University, Gray has been with the Torrance school system since 1957, prior to becoming a vice principal, he taught at Victor, Carl Steele, and Towers Elementary Schools.

Born in Upland, Gray moved to Sacramento at the age of 11. He received his high school education at C. K. McClatchy High School. After completing work for both his bachelor's and master's degrees at Stanford, Gray enrolled at the University of Southern California, where he is presently continuing with professional growth courses.

He makes his home in Torrance with his wife, Cornelia, and four children, Valerie, 12; Debbie, 10; Natalie, 9; and Robert Jr., 6.

HARENSKI, employed by the Torrance Unified School District for nine years, taught at Calle Mayor School for seven years and was vice principal of Madrona Elementary School for a year before being appointed to Howard Wood School a year ago.

Prior to coming to Torrance, he taught in Irwin, Pa., for a year.

Harenski was born in Pittsburgh, Pa. and received his bachelor of science degree from State Teachers College, California, Pa. He holds a master's degree from the University of Southern California.

The new principal is married and the father of three daughters, Karin, 8; Paula, 6; and Patricia, 2.



EDWIN R. BROWN
New Consultant

'Outlook' Luncheon Planned

Six prominent Torrance civic and business leaders will take a look at the economic outlook for the city during 1969 at a special Chamber of Commerce luncheon tomorrow.

To be held at the Latitude 29 Restaurant, 3901 W. Pacific Coast Hwy., the luncheon will feature a panel discussion of the area's economic prospects.

Panel members will include Edward J. Ferraro, city manager; Ray Watt, R. A. Watt Construction Co.; Jack Teske, Garrett AirResearch Manufacturing Co.; Don Baker, Bull-ock's Fashion Square; and Jack Heidt, Union Bank.

Brian J. K. Bell, assistant to the president at Hi-Shear Corp. and member relations chairman of the Chamber, will serve as moderator.

Reservations may be made through the Chamber offices, 1510 Cravens Ave.

Given Priority Plans for New School Started

The planning and construction of an elementary school at 231st Street and Arlington Avenue has been given top priority by the Torrance Board of Education.

The new school will relieve Howard Wood School and Adams School of their crowded conditions.

Development of the new school has been delayed during negotiations for individual parcels of land. More than \$500,000 is estimated for the construction of the school.

UNALLOCATED bond funds in the district amount to about \$780,000, it was reported. A portion of the money will be used to rehabilitate Torrance High School buildings.

A delegation of parents was on hand at the school board meeting Monday night at West High to bargain for a time commitment for the new elementary school.

Superintendent Dr. J. H. Hull said it requires 18 months to complete a school from the time it goes on the drawing board. Board member Bert Lynn said efforts will be made to complete the project as soon as possible.

Wood School has an enrollment of 1,100. Neighboring Adams School has 430 students.

SCHOOL Counselor Dr. Kathryn Lewis made an oral presentation to explain a counseling survey conducted in the district. Dr. Lewis evaluated the problems of school counseling and explored means of improving the service.

Poll Shows

Few Firms Now Use Municipal Airport

(Editor's Note: This is the third in a series of articles delving into the history and potential of the Torrance Municipal Airport. Future articles will deal with feelings of area residents toward the airport, official attitudes, and future development.)

By NATALIE HALL
Press-Herald Staff Writer

It's an unusual Torrance business that gets much use out of the Torrance Municipal Airport. At least that's the impression to be gained from an informal poll of big-name Torrance industries. Among those companies which

get little or no use from the airport are U.S. Steel, Union Oil, AirResearch, Hughes Electron Dynamics Division, and Harvey Aluminum. A check of the Del Amo Financial Center turned up not a single firm which uses the airport with any regularity.

And further investigation reveals that the typical Torrance executive has little or no opinion on the airport's future as a possible commuter field.

ONE OF the few local industries that wears a path on the Torrance airport runway is Hi-Shear Corp., which manufactures explosive bolts and rivets used in space rockets. Hi-Shear has five planes based on the field, all of the property variety.

According to Glen H. Child, industrial engineering manager for the firm, the planes are used continually — every day — to transport sales and technical representatives. "We couldn't get along without the airport," Child injected. In fact, Hi-Shear chose the Torrance site because of its airport facilities.

WHAT'S in store for the airport's future? Commuters, says Child. He terms the initiation of commuters service at Torrance "inevitable" and predicts that commuter planes will be flying from Torrance Municipal Airport inside of two or three years. However, the need for commuter traffic is here now, Child said.

The Hi-Shear executive is in a good position to comment on the community reaction to airport expansion. He's lived "in the traffic pattern" here in Torrance for 15 years and insists that it will be a minority of local residents who raise a ruckus about commuter service.

Child insists that commuter service would not prove to be a

detriment to local residents, commenting that "the community would be extremely handicapped" without such service.

In Child's opinion, the air- (See AIRPORT, Page A-2)



WEIGH ANCHOR . . . Two unidentified workmen take to a rubber raft as they head across a large "lake" at Amsler and Dormont streets to unstop a storm drain. The debris-filled drain caused water to back up in the intersection of the two streets with Crenshaw Boulevard. Water reached depths of 5 feet in some places. (Press-Herald Photo)

Retirement Plan Wins Approval

City safety personnel were granted their California Highway Patrol retirement plan last night by a unanimous vote of the City Council. However, the problem of financing the costly plan was postponed for budget hearings next summer.

Richard DeArmitt of the Torrance Firefighters Association told councilmen that the CHP plan would cost the city roughly the same amount as the 50/20 plan. But he argued that the CHP plan was superior because it encouraged firemen and policemen to stay with their jobs until age 55 or longer if they are able.

The 50/20 plan encourages retirement at age 50 at half pay. This plan was adopted for Tor- (See COUNCIL, Page A-2)