THS Grad Was Crewman Aboard Sunk Destroyer

Many hours of anxiety came to an end yesterday morning for Mrs. Mary Towler of 20519 North Elliott ave. in the Hammerton tract when she received a telegram from her son, Leroy Earl Stecker, a second class Navy signalman on the destroyer Sturtevant, which was sunk off the coast of Florida probably last Sunday.

"Am well, doing fine. Don't worry," the wire read. Young Stecker included his address but no information about the loss of his ship which was accompanied by the death of a relatively small number of his shipmates.

Lee Stecker has many friends in this community where he graduated from Torrance high school with the Summer class of 1939 and worked in the Torrance National Bank. He was an outstanding track star in high school and enlisted in the Navy Sept. 12, 1939. He will be 21 years old Saturday, May 2.

The destroyer Sturtevant was sunk "by an underwater explosion," according to the Navy Department. Loss of life was small and most of the crew of the old World War vessel reached port safely, indicating that the ship may have gone down quite slowly.

The Sturtevant, a 1,190-ton flush deck, four-stacker, normally had a wartime complement of around 145 to 150 men.

Whether it was a torpedo boat fired by a German U-boat raider, such as blew up the Jacob Jones off the Jersey coast earlier this year, or whether it might have been a floating mine, possibly even one which had broken loose from America's own mine fields was not stated, and some authorities suggested it would be extremely difficult to determine just what had happened.

The Sturtevant became the seventh naval vessel announced as lost in the Atlantic area since last fall. Four have been destroyed by enemy action. They were the destroyers Reuben James and Jacob Jones, the coast guard cutter Alexander Hamilton and the coast guard tender Acacia.

11 Patients Enter Hospital

Eleven new patients were received at Torrance Memorial hospital during the past week. They were: Judge Sam Austi[illegible] [illegible] auto mobile while crossing [illegible] street; Rev. Frank T. Porter, 1319 Arlington ave., April 28 for medical treatment of a serious heart [illegible] Mrs. Ada Tucker, Mc[illegible] ington beach, April 23 for surgery; Mrs. Emilia Becker, Redondo Beach, April 27 for medical care; and Raymond Burgin, Lawndale, April 23 for surgery. Joseph Campbell, Manhattan Beach, April 25 for medical care; Mrs. Reba Dugan, Manhattan Beach, April 25 for surgery; Virgil Franck, Manhattan Beach, April 24 for surgery; Ben B. Haney, Hawthorne, April 26 for surgery; Barbara Sue Muckelroy, 7, Redondo Beach, April 27 for an appendectomy, and Charles Smock, Redondo Beach, April 26 for surgery.

City to Plead with OCD for Helmets; Stroh Advises Purchase

If the city of Torrance gets any more steel helmets and any gas masks for its civilian defense workers and other residents, it will have to pay for them. So declared Police Chief John Stroh to the city council Tuesday night after reporting he had received 143 helmets "enough only about one-third of the number we need" from the county.

Altho Stroh told the city board it should "purchase 300 more helmets at a cost of about $2 each and get it over with," the council decided to send a resolution to the county, state, and Federal civilian defense authorities pointing out this city's vulnerability, its war industries and urgent need for OCD equipment.

RUNAWAY

A trailer loaded with a concrete mixer broke loose from a truck Tuesday afternoon at 230th and Pennsylvania sts., knocked down several mail boxes and wrecked a garage before it came to a halt, according to police reports.

TO SOUTH DAKOTA

Mrs. John F. Kirchen and children of 1508 Post ave. left Sunday for a month's vacation at Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Grubb Cyclists Map Endurance Run on Sunday

The Henry Grubb Cycling Club, Ltd., will leave from in front of the high school next Sunday morning at 9:30 o'clock for its "first semi-annual cross-country endurance run," according to information given out today by the club's press-agent and public relations director, Postmaster Earl Conner.

"We won't get very far so all the weak sisters in town need have no fears about joining us in this outing," Conner said. "Furthermore, we're going to take every precaution to 'bring 'em back alive.'

"If we can enlist the services of a couple of station wagon owners, we'll provide ambulance facilities. There's talk of asking the fire department to send a squad of Auxiliary Firemen along with a pulmotor and this will be an excellent opportunity for any one taking first aid training to get some actual experience."

Henry Grubb, popular meat dispenser, and Conner have been undergoing a regular training for their bike jaunts and while neither are very proficient, they are enthusiastic. Ultimate aim of the Henry Grubb Cycling Club, Ltd., is a trip to Elsinore.

Air Wardens Gain From Box Social

An old-time box social and dance, given Saturday night by the Air Raid Wardens of Harbor City and the Shoestring Strip, proved to be the most successful event, both socially and financially, held in Harbor City in a long time.

Mrs. C. W. Newton of 25532 Oak street was awarded the prize of $1 in war stamps for having the most attractive box. Bill McEwen was auctioneer and Mr. Murchison the judge.

Three first aid demonstrations on "What Not to Do in Case of a Casualty" were given, Mrs. Light being the innocent victim of the first two, given by Moore and Jones, and by Wardens Johnson, Waters and Henson. The Women Air Raid Wardens, Mesdames Sulter, Gorer, Jones and Allen, demonstrated with Mr. Sulter as the victim.

G. P. King gave an amusing dance and skit and musical solos were given by Boyd Hansen and Glen Smith on accordion and steel guitar. Community singing was led by James Van Patten.

B. Bozell caued square dances with Roy and Coy Farquhar furnishing the old time favorite tunes while a volunteer orchestra consisting of Mrs. E. Slack, E. Jessen, Mr. Damen, Glen Smith, G. Johnson, Bob Hansen and Homer Woods furnished music for modern dances.

[illegible] the wardens and presented several humorous gifts.

Rents Here Set At Mar. 1 Levels

Torrance and Lomita rents are stabilized at the last March 1 levels under the order issued Tuesday night in Washington by Price Administrator Leon Henderson. In cases where rents have been raised since March 1, state and local officials have 60 days in which to obtain conformity with Henderson's order.

The harbor area was coupled with Los Angeles county as one of 269 areas in the country where rents of last March 1 were set as the absolute ceiling which can be charged. In 64 other areas, none locally, the rent level was set as of dates as far back as Jan. 1, 1941, because of exorbitant increases in the last year.

BRIDGE GROUP MEETS IN REDONDO HOME

Mrs. Grace Gregory entertained at luncheon and bridge at her Redondo home Thursday afternoon. Guests were members of her bridge club. Contract awards were received by Mmes. C. A. Curtiss and C. D. Lowen. Mrs. T. T. Babbitt was a club guest.

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LEGION AUXILIARY GROUP AT SAWTELLE

Mrs. Oliva Lee, American Legion hospitalization chairman, accompanied by Mrs. Merle Youngken, Mrs. Nettie Babcock and Ben Youngken visited at Sawtelle Veterans Hospital Saturday.

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MISSIONARY GROUP TO HOLD FOOD SALE

The Woman's Missionary Society of Central Evangelical church will hold a food sale Saturday morning, May 2, at the entrance to Levy's Department store.

People

what they're doing

SORORITY GROUP AT TAPPIN HOME

The home of Mrs. Georgie Tappin was the meeting place of the Phi Alpha Gammas Monday evening when Pat August assisted as co-hostess. At the close of the evening refreshments were served to Helen Johnson, Marguerite McLean, Esther Figueredo, Martha Coburn, Lucille Rogers, Doris Watson, Mickey Twyman, Suzan Rayworth and Flo Joyce.

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MATRON RECEIVES MANY GIFTS

Mrs. Fred O. Bacon was honoree at an attractively appointed luncheon and shower given last Thursday at the home of Mrs. Thomas Sorenson in San Pedro. Mrs. Pete Thorssen of Lomita assisted as co-hostess. A stork motif was accented and pale pink carnations and blue hyacinths were used as the table centerpiece. Mrs. Bacon was presented with many beautiful gifts.

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CHOIR LEADER IS GIVEN FAREWELL PARTY

Mrs. Felmer Oestlie, former choir director of Methodist church and her husband were honored at a surprise farewell party arranged last week at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Findley. The honoree, who recently moved to Compton, was presented with a handsome gift from members of the congregation.

Those present were Rev. and Mrs. Harry Branton, Mr. and Mrs. Russell Paxton and children, James, Raymond and Jane; Mrs. Winifred Ruppe, Mrs. Elsa DeBra, the hosts and their children, Irene, Eddie and Patricia.

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P. E. CHEERIO CLUB MEETS TOMORROW

Members of the P. E. Cheerio club will attend their regular luncheon and business meeting at the home of Mrs. Sara Murray, 1514 Amapola ave. tomorrow (Friday) at 12:30 o'clock. Mrs. M. J. Edwards will assist as co-hostess.

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GUESTS AT FRATERNITY DINNER-DANCE

Among those who attended the Sigma Delta Xi Compton Junior College sorority dinner dance at Del Mar club in Santa Monica Saturday evening were Mr. and Mrs. Erich Lilienthal, the Misses Lois Jayne Allen, Mary Intermill, Bob Rogers, Ruth Gate and Tom Hinchliffe of Lomita.

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TEDDY McDOWELL HAS BIRTHDAY

[illegible] day [illegible] son of Mr. and Mrs. [illegible] McDowell, was happily celebrated at the family home, 1610 Crenshaw blvd., April 23, with a gala birthday party. Teddy's guests were Jessett Walker, [illegible] Ann [illegible], "Skeezix" Salch, Don Derwien and Gary Likter. Refreshments made a big hit with the guests and Teddy received many gifts.

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ATTEND AMARANTH RITES IN L. A.

Mrs. Grace A. Mort, Royal Matron of Redondo Court of the Amaranth, accompanied by Mrs. Lon J. Ralston, attended installation of officers Monday evening at Los Angeles Court. Grand Matron, Mrs. Pearl A. Young of Stockton was among the honored guests.

Among those who attended installation of officers at Redondo Court of the Amaranth recently were Mrs. Blanford Moyer, guardian of Job's Daughters; Mr. and Mrs. J. Armstrong, Mr. and Mrs. Otis Eutman, Mmes. Victor Pullman, Lenora Schroeder and Vernon L. Babcock. Installed from here that evening were Mrs. Grace A. Mort, royal matron; Annette Babcock, associate royal matron; Mary E. Schroeder, Faith, Emily Hickman of Harbor [illegible] Wisdom.

* * *

DANCE CLUB PLANS GUEST NIGHT HERE

Next Saturday night will be "guest night" for members of the L.U.B.F. dance club when they meet at the Torrance Woman's club for their regular festivities. Each member is invited to bring a guest and there will be two door prizes awarded during the evening. The club is seeking new members and President F. H. Baker of 1518 Amapola ave., phone 873, will be glad to give those interested information about this friendly group.

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O.E.S. OFFICIAL ON VISITS TO LODGES

Mrs. Lillian Shriner made her official visit to Hermosa Beach, Playa Linda chapter, O.E.S., Monday evening. On Tuesday Redondo's Carnation chapter was visited by the district deputy and a representative group from Torrance chapter.

Card Party to Raise Fund to Equip Air Warden Posts Here

Torrance Camp, No. 8908, Royal Neighbors of America, will sponsor a card party Monday evening, May 4, at Torrance Men's Bible Class building. Proceeds from the benefit affair will be used to purchase equipment and supplies for Air Warden posts Nos. 8, 14 and 16.

The public is cordially invited. A beautiful handmade quilt will be drawn during the evening and handsome prizes will be presented to high score holders at bridge, pinochle, 500 and bunco. Refreshments will be served.

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V.F.W. AUXILIARY GROUP AT SAWTELLE

Veterans at Sawtelle were entertained Tuesday when a group of Torrance V.F.W. auxiliary ladies visited. Cigarettes and cookies were distributed and bingo furnished diversion for more than 40. The Hobby Shop was visited and materials contributed for the veterans' work there. The ladies plan to make this trip each month.

KEYSTONE WOMEN PLAN FLOWER SHOW

The Woman's Club of Keystone will hold their annual flower show next Wednesday, May 6, in Mrs. George Koehler's beautiful gardens, 243 East 223rd st., Keystone, from 11 o'clock thru the afternoon.

Mrs. M. M. Noyes, district Federation garden chairman, will serve as one of the judges. Those wishing to exhibit should leave entries at Mrs. Koehler's home before Wednesday morning at 11 o'clock. The club extends a cordial invitation to all who wish to attend, according to Mrs. A. L. Hudson, chairman of the garden section.

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ENTERTAINS JAYCEE FRATERNITY GROUP

Richard Miller was host to members of Kappa Epsilon, Compton Junior College fraternity, when he entertained at his home, 1817 Beech ave. Monday evening. Refreshments were served at the close of the business meeting.

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MOVE TO L. B.

Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Bird and daughter Carol left Saturday for their new home in Long Beach.

Three-Part Program And Election Held At Elem. P.T.A. Meet

A three-part program of entertainment and instruction followed election of new officers and delegates to the state convention in Long Beach at the meeting of the Elementary P.T.A. unit Tuesday. New officers chosen were Mrs. Hillman R. Lee, re-elected president; Mrs. R. L. Parry, first vice-president; Principal B. J. Strand, second vice-president; Mrs. J. H. Moore, secretary; Mrs. Curtis Brown, corresponding secretary Mrs. W. E. Bowen, treasurer; Mrs. R. B. Roberts, historian; Miss Lovenia Boudinat, parliamentarian, and Mrs. L. K. Deleissegues, auditor.

"Hansel and Gretel," a three-act play, was cleverly presented by the Story Telling club under direction of Mrs. Wright and Mrs. Deleissegues. The Girls' Chorus, directed by Mrs. Cramer, sang between acts and the principal speaker was Sergeant W. H. Haslam of the local police department who gave an informative talk on "Safety." Delegates chosen to represent the unit at the convention were Mesdames M. Memmi, E. C. Prime, Verman, Parry and alternates, Mmes. J. H. Moore, C. M. Cook and Curtis Brown.

CATHOLIC CARD PARTY TONIGHT

Hostesses for this week's Catholic Ladies' card party are Mrs. Putman and her committee, Mmes. Flynn, J. J. MacDonald, Pennington, Allgood, Neff and Curten.

Everyone is cordially invited. The first door prize will be drawn at 8 o'clock and play will begin immediately following. Contract and auction bridge, pinochle and 500 will be played.

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TWO BIRTHDAYS ARE MARKED AT DINNER

Honoring her father, William Gascoigne and her father-in-law, Louis Fetherolf of Redondo on the occasion of their birthday anniversaries, Mrs. Francis Fetherolf entertained at dinner at her home Sunday. A decorated birthday cake was served. Covers were placed for Mr. and Mrs. Louis Fetherolf and Miss Dorothy Fetherolf of Redondo, Mr. and Mrs. William Gascoigne, the hosts and their son Donnie.

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CATHOLIC LADIES BID TO REDONDO MEETING

A cordial invitation is extended to the Catholic ladies here to attend a meeting of Catholic Daughters of America to be held Thursday, May 10, at the home of Mrs. Lucy Greaves, 500 South El Camino, Redondo Beach. A court is to be organized and initiation is scheduled for May 17 at Hermosa Biltmore.

Recent Bride Is Feted at Luncheon and Shower Party

Mrs. William Rook (nee Hazel Foster) was honored Saturday afternoon at a lovely luncheon and bridal shower given by Mrs. Jack McCune at Scully's restaurant in Leimert Park.

A bridal motif was carried out in table decorations and covers were placed for Mmes. W. P. Taylor, Milton Foster, Arvol Smith, J. B. Wallace, Adrian Clinger of Inglewood, Albert Coast, William Nicolay, both of Redondo Beach; the Misses Mildred Lukes, Elaine Foster and Jean Hathaway, of Lomita, the honoree and hostess.

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