

CITY OFFICIAL ORDERS OPEN WELL CAPPED

TORRANCE HERALD

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ROUGH DEAL . . . Bill Robinson, 17-year-old Torrance High School Senior, is looking forward to next Easter when he will be off his liquid diet and can eat. This year he couldn't.

6-Hour Operation Saves Local Youth

After a delicate six-hour operation, a 17-year-old Torrance youth is recovering this week in the County Harbor General Hospital from an ailment that threatened him with slow starvation.

Bill Robinson, a senior at Torrance High School, spent Easter vacation on a liquid diet after doctors opened the blocked entrance to the youth's stomach.

Red Cross Fund Drive Reaches 87 Percent Mark

Torrance's Red Cross fund-raising drive, seeking a goal of \$6,200, today neared the completion line, according to an announcement made by Fund Campaign Chairman Harry Greenwood.

As the campaign continued with "workers for miracles" still in the field—determined to attain assigned quotas—the canvassers in the geographic division reported the highest percentage mark, the fund chairman disclosed.

"It is indeed gratifying to know that our volunteers possess the spirit to remain doggedly at their task of surpassing the 1949 goal," Greenwood stated further.

Progress report this week filed by Geographic Chairman Mrs. Helen Loranger, announced that 513 persons in the door-to-door canvass had contributed \$1,624.86. William Patterson's Commerce and Industry report enumerated 950 contributions with a total of \$3,788.40, making a total of 1,953 contributors giving \$5,413.26, or 87 percent of the goal.

With a shortage of less than \$800, the fund chairman believes that persons who have not yet been approached and who wish to donate, could quickly bring the campaign to a close by mailing checks, or making their contributions in person to the Red Cross teller, Mrs. Bertha Hedberg, Chamber of Commerce, 1345 El Prado, or call 1824 to have contributions picked up.

ON THE INSIDE

The old newspaper editor's saying "when man bites dog—that's news" was replaced in Torrance this week by a little Easter parade news yarn which may be found in "PLASTERER PROTESTS PICKETS PICKETING" on page seven. A squib about a "TALKING BIRD WITH A HOLLYWOOD WOLF CALL" will be found on page six.

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GEN. EAKER OUTLINES 4-POINT PEACE PLAN

Seven to Vie For Torrance Queen Crown

Three more candidates for the title of Queen of Torrance signed in a wee bit ahead of the deadline last Monday to swell the ranks of contestants to a lucky seven.

The total and final list of those who are seeking the crown offered by the Junior Womans Club include the following bevy of beauties (and the term is not used loosely):

Joyce Franzen, 18, of 2870 Carson street, a student at El Camino College.

Edna Mae Snell, 22, of 1514 West 214 street, an employee of Columbia Steel.

Julia Menni, 18, 2375 Maricopa place, employed with the Occidental Life Insurance Company.

Fay Cleo, 17, 1513 Hickory avenue, a student at Torrance High School.

Jerry Speck, 20, 631 Sartori avenue, a "Hello" voice with the Telephone Company.

Della Cooper, 16, 904 Sartori avenue, a student at Torrance High School.

Marlene "Bunky" Quaggin, 17, 1699 Anapola avenue, a cheer leader at Torrance High School.

All girls will be out after votes during the next four weeks in an attempt to be first in the seniority line to inherit the crown now worn by Mary Ellen Crawford, an employee at the Bank of America who has held the Queen title the last year.

The girl who sells, or whose sponsoring organization sells, Easter vacation on a liquid diet after doctors opened the blocked entrance to the youth's stomach.

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WAR FLYER ADDRESSES FIVE SERVICE CLUBS

Lt. Gen. Ira C. Eaker, retired Chief of Air Staff, outlined a plan for National Security last night before a combined meeting of service clubs in the Woman's Clubhouse.

The pioneer in Army aviation was introduced to the capacity audience by Lt. Col. William L. Keefe, former aide to the general and a resident of Torrance for more than 20 years. Col. Keefe lives at 1619 West 220th street.

Dave Colville, master of ceremonies, introduced Col. Keefe.

The general, now vice-president of the Hughes Tool Company, touched on the international situation and United States relationship with Russia.

Calling upon his 30 years of Army service and 12,000 hours of flying time, the general pointed out a four-point program for National Security which included:

"First of all, our State Department must be an organization which will entice and offer an ample career to the best brains we can produce in this country. We must always remember that where the diplomat leaves off, the soldier must take up the burden."

"Secondly, we must have a central intelligence agency which will tell us what is brewing in every corner of the earth."

"Thirdly, we must have a force in being ready to move on a moment's notice to destroy the discovered war chest of the enemy before it is launched."

"Fourthly, we must keep our weapons modern. This requires great emphasis on scientific development—research and experimentation. It has been said that every war begins with the

weapons of the last war. It may well be that we were given a preview of the weapons which will dominate the next war in robot bomb, German rocket.

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SPEAKER . . . Lt. Gen. Ira C. Eaker—four points for national security.

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License Number Of Hit-and-Run Car Proves False

Basing their search on a license number supplied by an unidentified couple who claim to have witnessed the accident on April 9 which nearly brought serious or possibly fatal injuries to Grover C. Whyte, publisher of the Torrance Herald, the local police this week were tracing every lead to apprehend the driver of the hit-and-run vehicle.

Actual number of the license supplied by the couple who claimed to be following the car as it struck Whyte in front of the Herald Building, 1619 Gramercy avenue, nearly two weeks ago, proved to be erroneous. Detectives Ernie Ash-ton and Percy Bennett are attempting "to get a make" on the number by tracing all possible variations of the number offered by the couple.

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Employer Group Growing; Claim Of Secretary

Membership campaign of the Harbor Area Employers' Council was progressing successfully this week according to Frank S. Selover, executive secretary of the council, who predicted that the group's membership would double within the next few days.

Membership drive of the Council, which embraces employers in Torrance, Lomita, San Pedro, Wilmington, and Gardena was launched two weeks ago at a meeting held in the Civic Auditorium.

Selover also announced that another membership gathering of the organization has been slated for May 5 at the Wilmington Woman's Club.

Recent developments in legislation involving management-labor problems will be reviewed at the meeting by James M. Nicolson, legal counsellor for the council.

The council was formed recently for the purpose of collective bargaining of employers with unions through the council. It is composed of both employers and non-employers, such as property owners and owners who operated their own firms.

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County Tax Assessor Due Here

To assist local residents with their county property and personal taxes a deputy tax assessor will be in Torrance today as well as next Tuesday and Thursday, according to John R. Quinn, county assessor.

Persons who have not been contacted at their homes by a deputy assessor should contact the county representative in the mayor's office in the city hall during one of the three remaining visits of the deputy assessor.

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DEATH TRAP . . . Gale Whitacre, Torrance Police Officer, climbs into old clothes and into this abandoned oil well casing on 233 street to demonstrate ease with which a child like Kathy Fiscus might fall into the well.—Herald Photo.

City Official to Act First, Ask Later

A fluke in the laws may cause city manager George Stevens to be arrested for attempting to prevent another Kathy Fiscus tragedy.

The recent San Marino incident which claimed the life of a three-year-old child in the bottom of an old water well has caused a number of similar death traps to be brought to the attention of local authorities.

One such abandoned well is located on 233 street between Narbonne and Eshelman avenue. It is big enough to allow a man to stand in it, if the bottom were any closer to the top than it is—more than 50-feet.

The recently enacted oil ordinance does not specifically allow a public department or official to cap an abandoned well or fill in a dangerous hole or opening of any kind.

But in spite of this Stevens has ordered the capping of the well before another tragedy has

a chance to strike. He says he will worry about the consequence afterward.

The oil ordinance provides certain conditions that must be met in abandoning an oil well but in the ensuing legal tangle to get such action to take place, another accident could happen, Stevens claims.

Nothing in the ordinance, Stevens points out, covers the abandonment of a well.

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Public Schools Plan Programs For Next Week

Special activities at five Torrance schools will mark observance of Public Schools' Week here, April 25-29, announced J. H. Hull, superintendent of schools.

Highlight of the observance at the high school will be the Junior Play, which will be presented for the student body at a matinee to be given Thursday. Public performance of the production is set for 8 p.m. Thursday and Friday. Open house at the high school will start at 6:45 Friday evening.

The Torrance Masonic Lodge will take part in the observance at the high school, announced worshipful Master Vincent Vielenave. He urged the public to support the schools' program.

Open house will be held Monday at Fern Avenue School with separate room programs in some of the classes. A new "parent-teacher" conference program will be instigated in some of the rooms of the school. Teachers will give the parent an "oral report card."

At Torrance Elementary school open house will be held Thursday evening following a 7:30 p.m.

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FLYERS TAKE OVER



AIRPORT MANAGERS . . . Edward Dietrich Jr., former test pilot for Douglas Aircraft Corporation, and Richard J. Collins, former mechanical superintendent at North American Aviation Corporation, will assume management today of the Torrance Municipal Airport for the next five years.

Edward Dietrich Jr., and Richard J. Collins, operators of the Culver City Airport, will assume active management of the Torrance Municipal Airport effective today, according to George Stevens, city manager.

The pair completed inventories yesterday and it is expected that E. Y. Tarkington, previous manager of the air strip, will officially "turn over the keys" to the new managers this morning.

Dietrich, a former test pilot of B-24's, and Collins, a mechanical superintendent at North American Aviation Corporation, were the successful bidders for the management of the field for the next five years. Two other bids were received by the City Council which included one from Tarkington and one from George Batchelor, operator of Arrow Airways.

Dietrich said yesterday that he felt the field was capable of "going places" now that long-term leases were available. He stated he and his partner would make every attempt to make the local strip an attractive location for aviation industries as well as improve conditions for private flying.

The field was one of 162 singled out by recent Civil Aeronautics Authority action as being eligible for improvement under the \$91,101,000 CAA building program or 1949.

Any funds granted for the improvement of the local field would have to be matched by the city, Stevens said.

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VFW OFFICERS . . . Installed for the 1949 term at ceremonies conducted in the VFW hall last Monday were the officers pictured above: Front row, left to right; C. N. Weber, senior vice-commander; Jess Dean, commander; Frank Andrews, installing officer; Walter Foster, quartermaster; and Joe Cox, chaplain. Back row; Tom McNulty, adjutant; W. P. Walker, trustee; B. J. Michals, junior vice-commander; George Henderson, trustee; James Brody, judge-advocate; George Warburton, trustee; and Lyle Jensen, surgeon.—Photo by Harold Cameron.