



LUCKY GIRL—Joyce Taylor can smile now—and see. A week ago conditions were different. She was blinded by an injury. — Staff Photo.

Near-Miracle Performed to Restore Sight

A smile comes easy now for 10-year-old Joyce Taylor. There was a time, however, when it wasn't so easy for Joyce, or her parents. Mr. and Mrs. N. E. Taylor, to face life with a grin.

On November 13 Joyce was thrown from a horse and kicked in the head. Dr. Kurt Shery, who was called to care for the youngster, recognized the seriousness of the girl's condition and summoned a Mayo Brothers brain specialist.

Three hours after the accident Joyce underwent a delicate operation to relieve pressure on her brain. For four days authorities at Torrance Memorial Hospital listed her as extremely critical. An emergency telephone was installed at her home where her parents were alerted to stand by to give an immediate blood transfusion if needed.

Slowly she came out of a coma and her sight returned. With the magic of youth the girl won a battle against tremendous odds.

Joyce, a fifth grade student at the Halldale Avenue School, lives with her parents at 1416 West 220th street.

Shell Chemical Plan Surveyed for Conversion

Surveys are under way today looking toward conversion of the WAA-owned plant operated by Shell Chemical Corporation during the war, it was learned from Los Angeles sources. This plant, located just a mile east of the Torrance city limits, is one of the last so-called "white elephant" war plants in the southwestern industrial section of the county. It employed several hundred persons during World War II, some Torrance residents.

Shell Company will determine whether the plant can be converted to manufacture of rocket components, it was learned, and wants to acquire it if it can be operated profitably in production of some wartime or peacetime product.

LOMITAN SUICIDE

Leaving three notes, none of which revealed the motive for his actions, Donald M. Bailey, 25, a resident of Long Beach, shot himself with a .45 cal. pistol yesterday according to sheriff's deputies. Until six months ago when he moved to Long Beach, Bailey had been a resident of Lomita for the last 23 years. He is a graduate of Narbonne High School.

New Interest Now Shown in Airport Plans

New interest in the tangled administration of Torrance's municipal airport, Zamperini Field, was evidenced this week when it was learned that Louis Zamperini and an associate may submit a bid to the city for operation of the field.

Meanwhile, City Engineer George Stevens disclosed that he has set Dec. 14 for opening of bids for management of the airport, the procedure having been authorized by the City Council last week. In any event, it was forecast this week that E. J. Parkington, to whom the city administration still owes approximately \$600 a month under the title of "airport manager," will be definitely "out" under the new arrangement.

Inquiry about the municipal field among a group of private pilots at the Community Airport in North Torrance brought this reply from one: "I don't like to have someone drive alongside me when I've landed and yell: 'Hey, what do you think you're doing here anyway?' As long as Torrance feels that way about their airport, they can have it—all to themselves."

FUMES LEAD TO OLD OIL 'DISTILLERY'

Powerful fumes released by night from a crude refinery on 233rd street near Narbonne avenue were traced yesterday by H. L. Clark, an inspector for the Air Pollution Control district, following a storm of citizens' complaints.

Investigation disclosed that C. L. Keller, operating under the name of the Top Trucking Company, was distilling crude oil sludge to obtain fuel oil and asphalt. The operation was being carried on with a modified refinery and boiler.

Obnoxious fumes released into the air caused local residents to suffer headaches and eye smarting, and Inspector Clark, assigned to the Torrance-Lomita area, soon found the source of the fumes.

Investigation by Torrance city officials also disclosed that Keller had not obtained a license from the city to operate his refinery business.

Notice served by the APC gave the defendant 10 days in which to desist from the operations causing the offending fumes to be released into the air. Failure to comply, Clark said yesterday, will result in the offender being summoned before an APC hearing board.

City officials did not indicate what steps, if any, they planned to take in the matter.

Scoutmaster Gets Second Bronze Medal

Mrs. Frank Epperheimer proudly planned a bronze Boy Scout medal to her husband's lapel Tuesday night.

It was the second time in two weeks that the Lomita Scoutmaster who lives at 2215 Ardmore avenue, Torrance, had been honored for his courage in helping save three lives last Jan. 10 at ice-covered Jackson Lake. District Executive Bud Greene, who was also instrumental in the heroic feat, made the presentation speech Tuesday night at the weekly Lomita Kiwanis Club meeting in the Scout hall.

Greene lauded Epperheimer for displaying the "confidence that is courage" for going to the aid of a floundering group of children while 60 or 70 persons stood awestruck on the bank of the lake. "And he has yet to receive a 'thank you' for the 'little task' from the persons he saved," said Greene.

The medal, bronze trimmed with blue, was presented under the auspices of the Kiwanis Club. Last week Epperheimer received a Los Angeles Area Council award for the feat and Greene received a plaque.

H. H. Cox, Engineer of Distribution, Los Angeles Water and Power Department, addressed the meeting. Harry Hough was chairman of the evening and President Ray H. Reed presided.

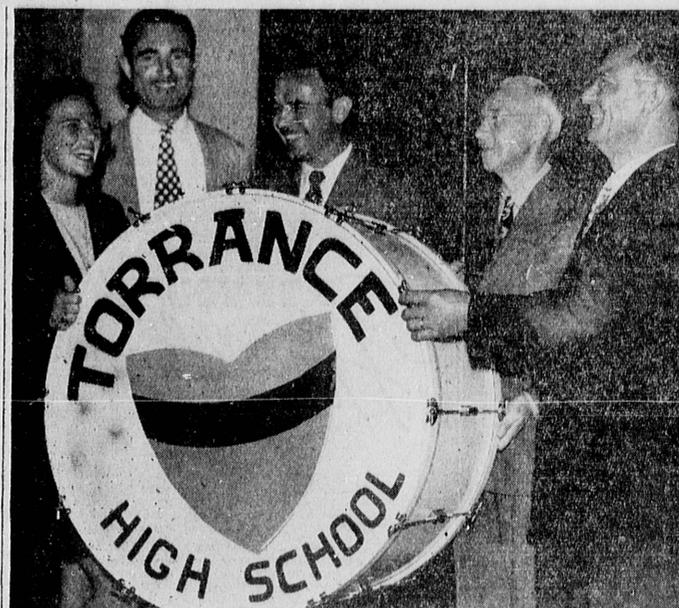
Compensation Insurance Cut

A cash dividend which has resulted in a saving of \$3901 to Torrance taxpayers was credited to the city this month by the State Compensation Insurance Fund, according to Joseph J. Gallagher, manager.

"The city of Torrance and its employees have established an excellent safety record for the year ending Feb. 14, 1948, and as a result the cost of workmen's compensation insurance has been reduced by 57 per cent of the premium," Gallagher explained.



LIFESAVING 'OSCAR'—Frank Epperheimer, 2215 Ardmore avenue, Torrance, Scoutmaster of a Lomita troop, receives a gold statuette from Film Star Jimmy Stewart. Epperheimer saved the lives of three children who had fallen through the ice at Jackson Lake last winter. Witnessing the presentation is Dave Soule, left, who was installed as local field commissioner for public relations. Tuesday night Epperheimer received a bronze medal from the Lomita Kiwanis Club. (Photo by Arthur Willey)



NEW TIMEKEEPER—Beverly Moore, president of the Torrance High School Band, accepts a new bass drum from a Lions Club committee who presented the percussion instrument to the band at ceremonies in the school auditorium. Taking part in the presentation were (left to right) Beverly, Abe Milstein, high school music director, Dr. Rowland Smith, W. B. Hickcox, and George Thatcher—all members of the Torrance Lions Club. (Herald Photo).

Move to The Herald's New Home Nearing

Plans for the formal opening of the Torrance Herald's new modern publishing plant are under way, with the virtual completion of the interior of the building.

Installation of the 32-page Goss Rotary press has delayed the opening considerably beyond expectations.

Full details of the date for the opening will be announced just as soon as installations are completed and running satisfactorily. The Herald's entire staff is looking forward eagerly to the move into its new and more adequate quarters.

Violence Case Draws Notice of Grand Jury

The County Grand Jury stepped into the local strike picture Tuesday when it indicted Carl R. Sutter, C.I.O. oil strike picket, for throwing a rock at a non-striking truck driver last Sept. 24 at Union Oil Company's Lomita Tank Farm.

Sutter, who lives at 5946 Jillson street, Los Angeles, was arrested by Torrance police last September and booked on the felonious charge of throwing a missile with intent to do great bodily harm.

He appeared before City Judge Otto B. Willet for a preliminary hearing. Because the District Attorney's office failed to provide a court reporter for the hearing, the case was "continued" on a request from the district attorney until such time as a court reporter could be furnished for the trial. Sutter was not held in jeopardy by the action and was consequently tried before the Grand Jury.

Deputies of the District Attorney's office are scheduled to appear in Judge Willet's court today to make a motion that will enable the county prosecutor to collect the documents pertaining to the case for use in Sutter's arraignment next Tuesday before Superior Judge Thomas L. Ambrose in Los Angeles.

The accused man is said to have thrown a rock through the cab of a truck being driven by William K. Codville, smashing the window and causing other damage.

Three other pickets arrested the same week pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor and were sentenced by Judge Willet to pay commensurate fines.

Christmas Street Decorations This Year to Be 'Finest Ever'

Christmas decorations for the business district and the main entrance streets in Torrance will be gaily paraded in the Yule holiday theme by Dec. 1, under plans completed this week by the Retail Merchants Division of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce.

"The city is cooperating with us this year in the decorations to make them the finest and most beautiful the city has ever had," said Herb Cohn, proprietor of the Torrance Men's Shop and chairman of the committee.

City officials in addition to making a cash contribution will provide city vehicles to assist in putting up the decorations.

Wreaths will be placed overhead at Five Points and at Torrance boulevard and Cota avenue. Downtown business streets to be decorated are Sartori avenue, Cabrillo and El Prado.

"This cooperation on behalf of the city is greatly appreciated," said Jack Abramson, co-chairman with Cohn. "The order has been placed for the materials and Santa Claus already has made a preliminary check-up. In fact some of the children had a heart-to-heart talk with Santa here only the other day, and all is well."

Man Released After Crash

Israel Felix, 10, suffered minor injuries when he was struck by an auto while riding his bicycle near Hawthorne boulevard on 174th street last week, according to Torrance Police Department records.

Driver of the auto involved was said by police to be Charles H. Gearhart, 2545 Sorrel Lane, Rolling Hills. He was not held. Young Israel, who lives at 4645 West 172nd street, was treated at Torrance Memorial Hospital following the accident.

Next Week's Thanksgiving Issue to Be Delivered Early Tuesday

Following its usual custom The Torrance Herald will advance its publication day on Thanksgiving week from Thursday to Tuesday. Housewives are requested to watch for next Tuesday morning's issue for late advertisements of food markets and other merchants featuring Thanksgiving Day merchandise.

Carrier and street newsboys are requested to call at their regular distribution centers for papers at the usual hour next TUESDAY, Nov. 23, instead of Thursday, Nov. 25. Copy for next week's classified advertising will close at 5 p.m. next Monday, Nov. 22. The regular 6 p.m. Tuesday closing hour will be resumed on the Dec. 2 issue. After Thanksgiving, business will be transacted at the Herald's new building, 1619 Gramercy avenue. The telephone remains unchanged, Torrance 444.

WESTON AREA PETITION WINS UNANIMOUSLY

By unanimous vote, the Torrance City Planning Commission last night granted K. Sande Senness a variance that will permit the establishment of a "memorial park cemetery" on the Weston Ranch east of Crenshaw boulevard and adjacent to the south boundary line of the city.

The Commission's action is final, according to C. Douglas Smith, city attorney and legal advisor to the body. The tract of approximately 80 acres lies on the upper section of the old Weston Ranch holdings, and is adjacent to the Empty Saddle Club property and practically adjacent to Rolling Hills.

Commissioner Merton Gilbert moved to grant the petition, subject to realignment of Crenshaw boulevard southerly of Highway 101, and his motion was seconded by A. Gianni.

Opposition to the cemetery plan was voiced by the Palos Verdes Corporation, represented by H. A. Straight; David Mitchell, of Route 1, Lomita, owner of an adjoining 8-acre tract; Earl B. Kinney, 1039 Pacific Coast Highway; Howard J. Percy, investment broker; A. J. Hodge, Lomita resident for 31 years and owner of a large parcel of nearby land; the Empty Saddle Club, and the Torrance-Lomita Realty Board, represented by W. E. Bowen.

Walteria residents did not oppose the project, and it was explained that the Business Men's Association last week took no stand on the matter.

Mrs. Gladys Weston, representing the corporation owning the remainder of the Weston Ranch holdings, said her company was in favor of granting the petition.

The Realty Board's objections were summarized as follows during the hearing:

First, there is no need for an additional cemetery in the southwestern section of the county because more than 200,000 burial places now exist. A newly-opened cemetery at Western avenue and Palos Verdes drive has 140,000 burial plots, there is the 40-acre Roosevelt Memorial Park on Normandie avenue, and another 20-acre burial ground at El Nido, known as Pacific Crest. These figures do not include urn space for cremations.

Second, the Realty Board feels that a cemetery in this location would reduce the value of all land in the immediate vicinity, particularly residential property.

Third, this property would be taken off the Torrance city tax rolls. It was stated, and the holdings would be taxed as raw land. Also, once established there, the cemetery never could be moved.

Fourth, areas contiguous to cemeteries always are the last to be developed, it was contended. Examples were quoted to illustrate this point.

Fifth, location of a cemetery always has a very definite bearing on the financing of new construction in adjacent areas, it was explained. Right now, real estate developers, including Senness—have stated that federal financing now is extremely difficult to obtain.

Langstaff to Build Stores

Contract for the construction of a modern concrete block store building at 124 Marcella avenue has been awarded and construction will proceed immediately to Reno Langstaff, owner of the property.

Hahn-St. John, Hawthorne contracting firm, has been awarded the contract for approximately \$17,000. The building will be 75 by 30 feet in area, with wood truss roof, concrete floors, steel sash and plate glass.

'Dewey', Says WM, But They Said He Lost!

"How do you like this election weather?" asked the Weather Man as we strolled into his gimmick-filled office to obtain the weekly temperature recordings.

"Election weather?" we asked quizzically. "Yeah, wouldn't you say that the mornings lately have been a little dewy?" We told him we thought the gag a little "hairy" and left with the following in hand:

Nov.	Maximum	Minimum
10	82	45
11	78	41
12	79	39
13	76	43
14	75	42
15	67	46
16	66	46

Southern Gals 'Go South' -- With His \$70

Salvador Musso probably will think twice the next time he extends western hospitality to Southern belles.

Musso complained to Torrance police this week that an Army buddy of his brought two beautiful blondes to his home. They said they were from South Carolina and were looking for a job and had no place to stay. Musso agreed to let them enjoy the hospitality of his home at Spencer street. They said they wanted to go to San Pedro to pick up their baggage.

After they had left Musso found \$70 missing from his wallet. They never returned. Musso now recalls San Pedro is "south" of Torrance.