

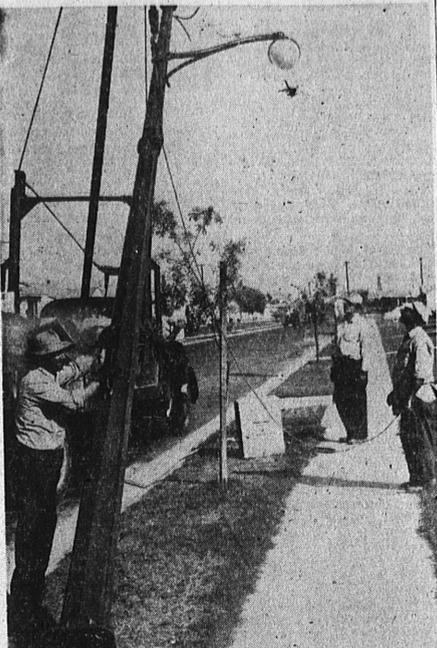
TORRANCE HERALD



35th Year—No. 40

TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA — THURSDAY OCTOBER 6, 1949

Twenty Pages



LIGHTER NIGHTS ON WAY . . . Workers this week completed installation of 48 street light standards in the Kettler Knolls district. They worked at a rate of one pole installed every five minutes. The lights in Kettler Knolls as well as the new lamps for Seaside Ranchos are expected to be turned on by Halloween. —Herald Photo.

Street Lighting Installation Job Near Completion

Working at an installation rate of one pole every five minutes crewmen under contract with the Southern California Edison Company this week completed one of the last steps in a Kettler Knolls street lighting project.

Forty-eight poles were erected. Thirty-three similar steel standards were recently placed in the Seaside Ranchos district. The lights in both districts are expected to be turned on sometime after the middle of the month.

Of the most modern variety, the lights are spaced 220 feet apart and will be connected by a single-lead overhead cable. The lights will shed 2500 lumen. Funds for the lights were furnished by the efforts of individuals and civic organizations in the Kettler Knolls and Seaside Ranchos communities.

City Sued

Airmen Want \$14,540 for Airport Crash

A suit asking \$14,540 bailm for damages last week was filed in Los Angeles Superior Court against the city as the result of an accident which occurred at Torrance Municipal Airport on July 16.

The legal action was initiated by Pilots Theodore Jenks of Hawthorne and Elmer McCune Jr. of Lawndale, who claim they were injured when their airplane collided with a car at the field.

Named with the city in the suit were the Collins-Dietrich Air Services, Inc., airport managers and Sam Nen, allegedly the driver of the car.

A claim filed by the two airmen with the city recently was denied by the City Council. The city, the flight firm, and Nen are charged with carelessness and negligence in permitting parking on the strip and the former two of failing to keep the field free of cars.

Mail All Overseas Packages Early

Christmas mail for servicemen and civilians serving overseas should be mailed between October 15 and November 15, residents were cautioned this week by Acting Postmaster Louis H. Dehinger. If packages are mailed after that time no assurance that the mail will arrive overseas by Christmas can be assured. Dehinger stated.

Rites For Bus Crash Victim Set

Daughter of Local Merchant Killed in Train-Bus Tragedy

Memorial service for Ramona De Bra, 23, talented musical student at Torrance High School in 1944 who was killed in a train-bus crash claiming 17 lives last Sunday will be held Saturday in Long Beach.

The victim, an Ontario Junior High School teacher, was the daughter of Eugene F. De Bra, owner of De Bra Radio, 1517 Cabrillo avenue.

Prior to her death in the tragic crash in Ontario, Miss De Bra lived with her mother, Mrs. Elsa De Bra, and sister, Carol De Bra, at 525 Walnut street in Long Beach.

A casketless memorial service will be held for the former Torrance resident at the First Methodist Church at Sixth and Pacific, Long Beach, on Saturday at 2 p.m.



RAMONA DE BRA . . . Victim of Train-Bus Crash

A request from the family asked that no flowers be sent. Persons who wish, may contribute funds normally spent for flowers to the Ramona De Bra Memorial Fund in care of the First Methodist Church, the fund would be used to help defray the cost of building a youth activity wing for the church.

The memorial service will be conducted by Rev. Harrison Myers of the First Methodist Church. Assisting will be the victim's uncle, Rev. William Hessel of the El Monte Methodist Church, Nadine Nickel, Torrance vocalist will sing at the service.

After cremation entombment will follow in Roosevelt Memorial Park.

Miss De Bra was killed along with 11 March Field Air Base soldiers and six girls who were returning from a summer-end outing at Corona Del Mar. An inquest into the cause of the crash which occurred opposite the Ontario International Airport at 5:58 p.m. Sunday evening was held yesterday.

Before moving to Long Beach, Miss De Bra lived for 17 years at 1325 Engracia avenue. She attended UCLA where she was president of the Mu Phi Epsilon, honorary music society, and the Music Workshop. While attending Torrance Junior High School, the former resident was awarded the American Legion Award for citizenship.

Pit Strike Cripples Home, Street Construction Work

Pilot Saves Seven; Perishes

Rites Set For Air Crash Hero Killed Saving Crew

Military services for the hero-pilot who rode his crippled plane to his death last Friday rather than allow his flaming B-25 to crash into a densely populated area of Chattanooga, Tenn., will be held Saturday afternoon at Stone and Myers Chapel, according to relatives here.

The deceased airman is Captain William E. Blair, 30, husband of Mrs. Ruth (nee Barnard) Blair and father of two children, Randolph, and Trudy.

When Air Corps duties would allow, the couple made their residence at 2553 Sonoma avenue, home of Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Barnard, his mother—and father-in-law.

Mrs. Blair is being escorted to Torrance from Spokane, Wash., where her late husband was commanding officer of the 92nd Food Service Squadron.

Captain Blair died a hero's death when he refused to leave his burning "Mitchell" bomber while his crew parachuted to safety. One of the crew of nine, Corporal Norman Henson, of Spokane, Wash., was killed when he slipped out of his parachute harness. His body landed in a school yard in Chattanooga. His harness and unopened chute were found a block from his body.

According to reports from the seven crewmen who jumped to safety, Captain Blair ordered his crew to bail out after one of the engines caught fire. In an internal explosion which followed the original fire many of the crew suffered burns. Capt. Blair, a B-29 pilot during the war, in spite of the burns he received along with the other crewmen, fought to control the disabled craft until his crew had bailed out. He guided the flaming craft out of the thickly populated area of Chattanooga but did not have sufficient time to parachute to safety before the Spokane-based plane crashed into a wooded area on the outskirts of town.

A time-consuming dramatic incident marked the exit of one of the air crewmen. The chute caught on the door of the disabled craft. The escaping flyer dangled in mid-air until another crewman freed the tangled chute.

Surviving the veteran of 10 years Army service is his widow, a graduate of Torrance high school in 1937, his parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Blair of Dallas, Texas; a sister, Wynnie Blair of Dallas; and a sister, Betty Lynn Darr of Spokane; his wife's parents of the Sonoma Avenue address; two brothers-in-law, Dan Barnard of 1219 Fern avenue; Van Barnard, operator of the Laundry Lounge on Cravens avenue; and a sister-in-law, Mrs. De De Sparks, 2516 Eldorado avenue.

The body of Captain Blair is due to arrive on Chattanooga today, relatives said.

Interment will be in Green Hill Memorial Park.

Plans Set for Junior Chamber Charter Party

Plans were completed this week for a Charter party of Torrance's new Junior Chamber of Commerce, which will be staged tomorrow evening at the Hollywood Riviera Club House. Lt. Gov. Goodwin J. Knight will deliver an address.

Howard Percy, organizer of the new group, will be installed to the office of Junior Chamber of Commerce president. Other officers to be honored at the installation are: Ralph T. Jakubowski, first vice-president; Harvey Abramson, second vice president; Leland Franz, secretary; Edwin Karlow, treasurer.

Other members of the group's board of directors are Charles Schultz Jr. and Bob Wellen. Bill Beckman is sergeant-at-arms.

Strike Halts Delivery of Sand, Rock

The crippling effect of the sand, rock, and gravel pit strike was felt throughout the Torrance area this week as construction wheels ground to a stop for the want of materials.

New home construction was hardest hit as contractors, casting an apprehensive eye toward the coming rainy season, were unable to pour foundations.

Three nearby firms have been closed by the strike. Idle at the Azusa Rock and Sand Company distribution plant at 1347 West 208th street, are 17 teamsters who haul transit mixed concrete.

The teamsters are observing a picket line established by 500 members of the International Union of Operating Engineers on Monday of this week.

Chandler's Palos Verdes Sand and Gravel company at 26311 Narbonne avenue has 65 idle both operators and teamsters. Another 16 are idle at the Sidebotham and Son plant located on Pennsylvania avenue south of the Pacific Coast Highway.

City street construction and resurfacing has been brought to a standstill by the strike, City Manager George Stevens said.

Hope for an early settlement of the situation was practically abandoned yesterday when negotiations between employers and the union broke down, according to a statement last night from Richard Lund, attorney for the employees.

While carpenters, roofers, and plumbers were able to continue with some construction projects it was estimated that 100,000 building craftsmen would be forced out of work if the strike is not settled within the next few days.

Plasterers already have been forced to halt for the lack of sand.

City building inspector John Patrick estimated that work on 200 homes had been suspended.

The operators originally asked for a 10-cents an hour wage increase, according to Union Negotiator James J. Royce. This was later reduced to a request for certain "fringe" benefits.

These benefits include a request for six paid holidays a year, a liberalized vacation plan, a uniform work day with definite starting and quitting times and clarification of existing job classifications.

One employer's spokesman said the owners had granted four wage increases since V-J Day amounting to more than 60 cents an hour.

"We cannot increase operating costs any more," he stated.

Shady Simoleon Bogus Bill Miffs Manager of Local Safeway Market

Wayne Bell last week found himself being "short-changed" as he filed past the local Safeway store checkout stand with a bundle of groceries—and he couldn't even call the manager. He is the manager.

Source of contention was a schizophrenic dollar bill. That is, he was handed a \$5 bill which, when turned over is a \$1 bill. The phony bill had been handed to the cashier as \$5 earlier in the day.

The split personality bill is one of the more popular dodges of a new local crop, Bill learned. The splitter tears a \$5 bill and one buck note neatly through the middle and glues the face of one on the back of the other.

When presented on the five dollar side, the switch nets the bright one \$10 for his \$8 invested. It also can get him 20 years in jail.

The "last one" to get the bogus simoleon, Wayne Bell in this case, is stuck with it. It's worthless, bankmen declare.

Business Group Raps Idea Of One-way Streets Here

A letter which declared that the creation of one-way streets in downtown Torrance "is unnecessary and would create confusion," this week was sent to City Council by the Retail Merchants Division of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce.

Action by the merchants' group apparently was motivated by the recent publication of City confusion.

One-way streets are the growing trend, Smith declared, and added that the system has been successful everywhere it has been tried.

He added, however, that he would not take the initiative in asking the City Council for one-way street legislation.

Interviewed yesterday, the city attorney said that one-way traffic on such streets as Cravens and Sartori avenues would speed the flow of automotive traffic and cut down on accidents and

COPPER SEEK COPPERS

107 Pennies Taken in Night Raid

Norman Webster, filling station operator at 1476 W. 185th street, told Torrance police Sunday morning that someone had entered the station during the night and taken \$1.07 in heavy cash.

The entire sum was in pennies.

Police believed that the intruder had entered the gasoline station building through a small hole in one of the rear windows.

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YOUTH HURT IN HOT ROD CRASH HERE

Arthur M. Carlson, 22-year-old San Pedro hotrod driver yesterday was recovering from injuries suffered when his speeding car crashed into a trailer truck at 150th street and Vermont avenue. The accident happened Monday.

Clyde W. Yandell, 32, of Bell Gardens, told police his truck was clearing the intersection when the hotrod struck the trailer.

The souped-up car smashed four feet under the trailer, hitting an 800-pound spare tire and hurling it 60 feet. Acetylene torches were necessary to cut Carlson out of the wreckage.