

# More Clues in Ether Attack Case Sought by Police

## First Coals Thrown Under City's Political Pot at Council Meeting

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SMILES STILL... Though she lost four fingers in a cookie cutter, eight-year-old Birgitta Eklund still has a smile for her Swedish engineer father, Eyvind Eklund. —Herald photo.

### Swimming Pool Issue to Go On April Ballot

Local citizens started building a fire under the 1950 political pot at the Torrance City Council meeting Tuesday eve.

Likely to bring the pot to a boil before the electorate goes to the polls in April are six "Yes" or "No" propositions.

1. Should the city be divided into five councilmanic districts?
2. Should City Councilmen be paid for their services?
3. Should the city court judge civil action?
4. Should the salary of the city treasurer, Mrs. Margaret Fordice, be increased?
5. Should the city float a bond issue to finance the construction of a swimming pool in Torrance?

A proposition tendered by City Clerk A. H. Bartlett would divide the city into five equally populated districts. Little objection to the councilmanic district system was expressed, although several Walteria residents objected to their community being split by a district boundary line.

Bartlett pointed out that a map showing the five districts was only tentative and that an equitable division of the city was the ultimate goal of city officials.

If the voters elect to switch to the councilmanic system a special election would be necessary to elect a new council.

The council would have the privilege of redistricting the city at any time that population in the various districts changed to such an extent that unfair representation would occur.

The swimming pool proposition if approved, would allow the city to float a \$250,000 bond.

### Riviera Club Operator Wins

The Hollywood Riviera Community Association not only lost its suit to oust Graham E. Harris as operator of the Hollywood Riviera Club, but Judge Ida May Adams of Los Angeles Municipal Court also ordered the association to pay Graham's cost of defending himself against the suit.

The association accused Harris, a Culver City school teacher, of being \$1200 behind, in his \$300-a-month rent. He contended he had offered to make partial payment and had been refused.

### Family Grateful for Help Given by Riviera Neighbors

By Jack O. Baldwin

Residents of Hollywood Riviera opened their hearts and their pockets this week to help a neighbor—a Swedish engineer and his family.

Dogged by hard luck and ensnared in red tape since their arrival in this country 15 months ago are Eyvind Eklund, his wife Ella, and their three children: Ulla, 12, Birgitta, 8, and Claes, 6. They live at 205 Calle De Madrid—their first home in America.

Here's Eklund's story: "We came to America because they told us in Sweden that this was the land of great opportunities for an aviation engineer like myself. The American Vice Consul even arranged for me to come here two years ahead of time because of the need for men with my expertise." (Continued on Page 2)



MARCH OF DIMES CHAIRMEN CONNER AND VAUGHN GET CHECK FROM FIREMAN WEST... Fire Truck Driver Bob Moffitt Sold 117 Tickets To Fireman's Ball. —Herald photo.

## Telephone Strike Plans Here Hazy

### Workers May Go Out in Sympathy

It was a case of "Your guess is as good as mine" with most officials who commented this week on how the impending telephone strike would affect the local situation.

Likelihood that Torrance would have some, if not regular service, seemed assured, however.

A. B. Smith, manager of the Torrance and Lomita exchanges, both of which are operated by the Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company, said yesterday.

"We have heard no strike talk from telephone people here and have nothing to go on except the reports from Washington, D. C."

He referred to a statement from union leaders in the capital that a nationwide phone strike had been called for February 8.

He told reporters however that operators and maintenance crews might go out in sympathy with the eastern strike or might refuse to cross a picket line if one was established.

Assurance that some service would be available to those subscribers of the P.T.&T. Co., was given by Smith. He said that all operators in a supervisory capacity, such as chief operators, night chief operators and supervisors were considered as management and therefore not affected by the union's action.

### Torrance Failing To Care For City's Own Polio Cases

With a goal of \$5000 which would not even care for the six children stricken with polio last year in Torrance, the city has contributed only \$2000 to the March of Dimes, Mrs. Clara A. Conner, drive chairman, revealed yesterday.

With more polio cases last year than ever before the officers of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis were so empty, Mrs. Conner had to send \$1900 to the foundation yesterday in the midst of the drive as the result of an unprecedented request from campaign headquarters.

In fact, Mrs. Conner and co-chairman Delbert Vaughn said, if it had not been for the recent March of Dimes Ball sponsored by the city firemen, and the collections in the city schools, collections to date would have been so meager that the amount collected would hardly have been worth sending in.

Largest contribution to date was the firemen's. They gave \$1147.38, a little less than the average \$1154 required for one of the six cases of polio reported in Torrance last year.

Heaviest decline in contributions this year has been in the factories, the co-chairman said, where workers' contributions were comparatively infinitesimal. The miniature iron lungs on store counters all over town have, failed, too, to get their usual attention. Ironically, the miniature iron lung in the fire house held more coins than most others.

Because the usual January drive failed so badly, the drive has been extended until February 28 in an effort to make up the \$2000 deficit and the heads of the March of Dimes are planning drives in the local theaters, with the added possibility of sponsoring wrestling matches in Civic Auditorium if they can get approval from City Council at next week's meeting.

Torrance firemen took in a total of \$1901 as their part of a six-city fireman sponsored March of Dimes Ball in which the total receipts were \$5301, but taxes and cost of the show cut down the total to \$3837.36, cut down Torrance's share from the \$1901 to \$1147.38. Taxes accounted for \$236.47 of the deductions from the Torrance fund.

### Residents Routed By Slag Pile Blast At Columbia Steel

An explosion last night on a slag pile at Columbia Steel Company rocked homes in the vicinity of 208th street and Western avenue.

The blast sent showers of red hot slag high into the air as residents rushed to their phones to report an explosion.

Several County Fire Engine Companies sped equipment to the scene.

No one was injured, said Captain Frank Schumacher of the Torrance Police Department.

### Lions-Optimists Plan Five-Day Fair, Festival

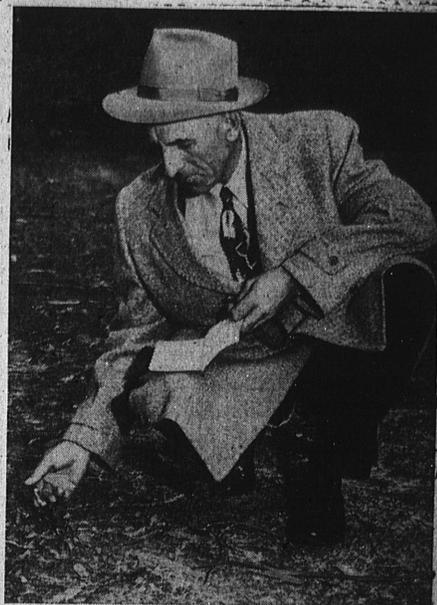
March 29 to April 2 has been set for a five-day Spring Fair and Festival to be held in Torrance, it was announced this week by Charlie Gotts, chairman of the event.

The festival is to be jointly sponsored by the Torrance Lions Club and the Torrance Optimist Club.

Delbert Vaughn, Optimist Club co-chairman of the proposed event, said that the two clubs had signed a carnival to appear for the five-day period.

Purpose of the festival is to raise funds for club-sponsored youth activities.

Cooperating with the two clubs will be the Junior Chamber of Commerce under the leadership of Howard Percy, president.



DETECTIVE CAPTAIN ERNIE ASHTON... Not Even Any Tire Tracks

## Blue Pick-Up Only Real Lead In Tot Attack Case Here

Police, armed with only meager details, appealed to residents this week for aid in capturing the man who last Friday kidnapped and raped a six year old local girl after he had stupefied her with ether.

The girl, a daughter of a police officer, said her attacker had a gray stubble beard, "very" blue eyes, hairy arms, bad teeth and was wearing a blue work

shirt open at the throat and black pants.

"Piecing the story together Detective Captain Ernie Ashton said the child was picked up in a late model shiny blue pick-up truck. The child said there were pieces of wood in the bed of the truck.

The child told local detectives and members of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Vice Detail she was accosted by the man at the corner of 220th street and Andreo avenue. According to the girl the man stopped his truck, called her to the side and then bodily dragged her through the window.

"I asked him if he was taking me home. He said 'yes,' but he didn't. He gave me a nickel and a penny."

"Someone living along the route the man took must have seen the truck pass. If they are able to furnish us with any information we would appreciate it if they would contact the Torrance Police Department," Captain Ashton said.

Retracing the route taken by the attacker, police said he proceeded south on Andreo avenue

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UNIQUE... Visitors who attend the dedication ceremonies at the Seaside School Sunday afternoon will be sure to notice these animal-cracker like figures that adorn the entrance to the Kindergarten. —Herald photo.