

# THIEVES GAG, ROB MERCHANT

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**NEXT STOP KOREA . . .** A high military official this week said the 40th Infantry Division, and that includes the Torrance based 578th Combat Engineers pictured above erecting a trestle-way bridge during training in Japan, may be one of the two former National Guard units to be sent to Korea in keeping with the Army's rotation system. The unit was described as "probably the most battle-ready of any of the six Guard divisions so far ordered into Federal service." The local engineers shipped out for Japan last March and have been undergoing extensive training near Matsushima Air Field while bringing their ranks up to full fighting force.

## Appeal to Assist Flood Victims Made

An urgent appeal to residents of the area to assist with the rehabilitation of the thousands of flood victims in the midwest was voiced this week by Red Cross officials in answer to President Truman's appeal to the American people to contribute \$5,000,000 to a special Red Cross flood relief fund.

Hearing of the special drive planned by the Red Cross here, Mayor Bob Haggard this week added his appeal to those made by other officials and asked that the "citizens of Torrance support this very worthy project."

## Merchant Tied by Bandits With TV Wire, Rope; \$637 Missing

Brandishing a .32 cal. pistol two thieves Tuesday night bound, gagged, and robbed a Torrance merchant of \$637 as he was about to close his store for the night.

Victim of the robbery is Fred W. Ruff, new owner of the DeVore Home Appliance store, 1875 West Carson street.

"I was reaching for a pie in the deep freeze when suddenly I felt something jab me in the ribs. It didn't take me long to realize it was a gun when a voice said, 'Come on, buddy. In up.'" Ruff told Detective Captain Ernie Ashton.

The two bandits forced Ruff into the back room and there tied his feet, using a piece of television aerial wire, a vacuum cleaner electric cord, a leather jacket, and a piece of cotton rope.

A gag was put into the victim's mouth.

The thugs robbed Ruff of his two wallets containing approximately \$547 and took another \$90 from the cash drawers in the store.

Ruff said it took him about seven minutes to free himself from the ropes with which he was bound.

"I could get a look at only one of the men because he stood in front of the other man. The one I saw was about 28 years of age and wore dark tinted glasses—not sun glasses but regular eye glasses that had slightly darkened lenses," Ruff told the police.

Ruff purchased the Home Appliance Department of the local store last month from Floyd DeVore who is still operating the DeVore Electric Company.



**HOG TIED . . .** Fred Ruff demonstrates how he managed to get loose after thieves hog tied and gagged him Tuesday night and then robbed him as he was closing his appliance store. (Herald photo).

## Shell to Build Huge Fertilizer Plant Near Here

A new Shell Chemical synthetic ammonia plant for California, to be located at Dominguez was announced this week on the West Coast by J. G. Bejarano, manager of Shell Chemical's present Dominguez plant, and by Jan Oostermeyer, president of Shell Chemical Corporation. Construction of the multi-million dollar project will begin this year with completion scheduled for late in 1952.

This new addition to Shell's petrochemical manufacturing units at Dominguez will supply nitrogen fertilizer to the farmers of California, Arizona, Oregon, and Washington. Because of the tremendous effects of its products in boosting production of foodstuffs, the plant has been certified as a necessary defense unit by the Federal Government. Raw materials for the synthesis reaction will be natural gas and air.

The fertilizer, in the form of

## Well Frankly, We'd Hardly Think You Could

From the front page of the Los Angeles Daily Journal of Monday July 23, 1951 readers were able to glean this useful bit of information:

"The elimination of ground squirrels from the vast rural areas of Monterey County in 1890 cannot be compared with the elimination of rodents in the city of Torrance in 1950." End quote!

## Instructor Gets 6 Yr. Jail Term

Clarence H. Vetterli, 41-year-old El Camino journalist-instructor who was convicted on two charges of perjury recently was sentenced to a total of six years in prison yesterday by U. S. Judge Peirson M. Hall.

A former advisor for the El Camino student newspaper, "The Warhoop," Vetterli was convicted of lying when he told a federal grand jury in 1949 that he did not know that Ignacy Witczak was a Communist spy, and of lying when he denied providing funds for a Japanese-American youth to go to Japan in 1941 to work against the Tojo-led Japanese government.

Judge Hall sentenced the instructor to four years on the first count and two years on the second count, the terms to run consecutively.

Vetterli's attorney, Russel K. Lambeaux, said they had not decided late yesterday whether to appeal the conviction.

## Columbia Steel To Show-off New Smog Trappers

Columbia Steel with its thumbs in its vest and proud of what it has done to cut down smog in L. A. county, will play host to a group of interested parties, including the press, today to show-off the four new smog trappers now in operation at the local plant.

Known as electrostatic precipitators the devices magnetize the particles in the smoke generated in the company's four open hearth furnaces and attract the particles to electrodes. Vibrations jar the particles loose into a hopper for disposal.

The devices can collect between 75 pounds and 240 pounds of metallic dust per hour.

**PURIFY FUMES**  
Alden C. Roach, president of Columbia, explained that the precipitators, which rise 60 feet high alongside the 128 foot open hearth stacks, operate like gigantic magnets in purifying smoke and fumes generated in open hearth furnaces during the steelmaking process.

More than 13,000 cubic feet of waste gas per minute is diverted from each furnace stack into ventilated branch flue systems leading to the cleaning equipment.

First the gasses are reduced in temperature from 1300 to 1600 degrees F. to a range of 450 to 600 degrees F. before entering the cleaning equipment. This is accomplished by a large waste heater containing 550 tubes 2 inches in diameter. This unit generates 9000 to 12,000 pounds pressure steam per hour for other plant uses but its primary purpose is to reduce the temperature of waste gas. Each of the four boilers has an auxiliary water treating and heating system, pumps and miscellaneous equipment.

**HIGH VOLTAGE**  
After the gas is cooled, it is transferred to dry plate electrostatic precipitators. Each precipitator contains 17 ducts formed

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## Continue Search For Jail Escapee

## City to Try Parking Meters

A pay-to-park plan embracing the use of parking meters was adopted by the Torrance City Council Tuesday night.

Passed at its first reading was an ordinance calling for the installation of parking meters along five streets in the Central Traffic District of Torrance.

Under the terms of the ordinance prepared by city attorney James M. Hall, money collected from the meters would be used to purchase off-the-street parking lots.

**AUTHORITY NEXT**  
Next step to be taken by the council will be the appointment of a Parking Authority—an agency created during the 1949 State Legislature. The Authority

will administer the funds from the meters and will purchase vacant lots in the Central Traffic District to provide additional parking for the crowded uptown area. Meters might also be installed on these lots to provide additional revenue, according to Hall. The Authority will have no control over the installation of meters on the city streets.

In presenting the ordinance Hall is purposely ignoring a claim of Remco, successors to the original developers of the City of Torrance. Don Findley, president of the company, claims that Remco has a right to a portion of the funds collected from parking meters on any Torrance street except Car-

son street.

**REVERT TO REMCO**  
Findley claims that under the original terms of the deed which gave Torrance its present streets that if at any time the streets should be used for any purpose other than public use the title would revert to the Remco organization.

"Parking meters are not a part of public use," claims Findley.

Hall states he has been assured the Remco organization has no claim to the meter funds.

**DISTRICT DEFINED**  
The streets upon which meters may be erected according to the new ordinance are as follows: Carson—from Border to Ar-

lington; Cabrillo—from Carson to Torrance boulevard; Torrance boulevard—from Cabrillo to Cota; Cravens—from Torrance boulevard to Carson; and Sartori—from Torrance boulevard to Cabrillo.

Until the meters are paid for half of the funds would be used to pay for the devices while the other half would go toward off-the-street parking lot purchases.

The meters would provide 12 minutes of parking for one penny and up to two hours for ten cents.

Voting against the installation was Councilman Nick Drale who said he thought the matter ought to be put to a vote of the people.

## Earmarked:

## Escapee May Be Wounded

A would-be-bandit and a successful jail escapee with a possible bullet wound on the left side of his head is the object of a search this week by Torrance police who want to return the daring robbery suspect to the local jail from whence he escaped early Sunday morning.

Wanted for attempted armed robbery and jail breaking is 19-year old Tony Sesneros Escobar, of 2129 West 203rd street.

Escobar leaped a counter at the Torrance City Jail about 1:15 a.m. Sunday as he was being booked for the attempted hold up of a service station at Pacific Coast Highway and Hawthorne boulevard.

**HOT ON HIS TRAIL**  
In pursuit of Escobar went three Torrance officers, one of whom, Ralph Walker, fired two shots at the fleeing bandit in the alley and parking area in the rear of the Torrance Civic Auditorium.

"I saw him grab the left side of his face right after I fired," Walker said. "I think I must have nicked him in the ear."

Officers Hyman Fischer on foot patrol near the scene but unaware of the chase, heard the shots and heard one of the slugs hit the ground where he was walking.

The thief made good his escape in the dark shadows of the alley of the uptown business area.

In on the chase also were Captain Willard Haslam and Officer Joe Miles.

**ACTION PAYS OFF**  
Escobar was picked up at his home through the quick thinking of Thomas Brown, operator of Virgil's Service Station in Waverly. Brown picked the license number off the car Escobar used to flee the scene of the unsuccessful robbery.

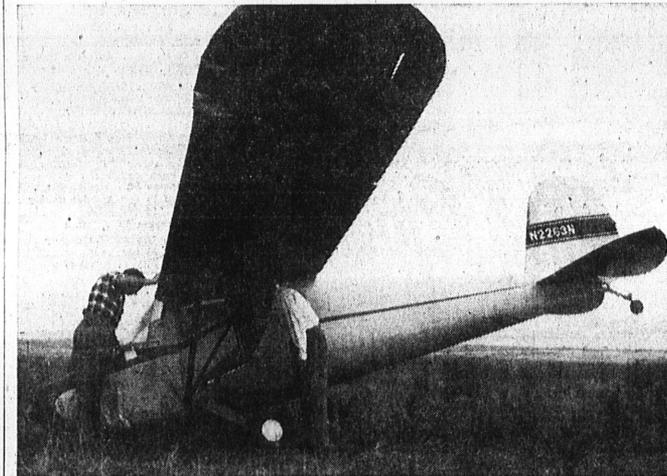
"He (Escobar) was in the process of holding me up when he got scared off by another car which pulled into the station," Thomas told Officers Mervyn Porter and Bruce Goeler of the Torrance Police Department.

The attempted robbery took place about 11:20 p.m.

It was two hours later that Escobar pulled his escape act.

**SUSPECT NABBED**  
Checking the license number led officers to Escobar's home. Questioned by officers Escobar could not give a creditable ac-

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**STILL A GOOD LANDING . . .** "Any landing you can walk away from, is a good landing," is a birdman's philosophy that covers the landing made by the pilot of this craft last Friday evening. Ripping out a landing gear as he ground-looped to a forced landing in a field near Madrona avenue and Del Amo, was the pilot of this two-place Cessna, Hugh Wells. He and his passenger, Bill Eytchison, climbed out unharmed after the plane's engine conked out and they landed the plane on the side of a small hill. The plane was out of the Gardena airport. (Herald photo).

## TO PROBE ACCIDENT

Six Torrance men will sit today as a Coroner's Jury to inquire into the death of Wayne Joseph Boest, 25-year-old Los Angeles cyclist, who was killed Saturday when thrown from his motorcycle in a collision.

Booked on a charge of drunk driving and driving without an operator's license following the accident was George Byron Spencer, 44, of 2004 Manhattan Beach boulevard.

The inquest will be held at 11:30 a.m. tomorrow at Stone and Myers Mortuary. Selected to sit on the jury were Bill King, Ben Smith, Charles Schultz Jr., Bernard Leo, Frank Jakubowski, and Jack Baldwin.

## 'NO SILVER, JUST BILLS' BANDIT TELLS VICTIM

Demanding "Get over there you guys. I want your money. Shell out." A thief early Sunday morning pulled a gun on the attendant of Edward's Service Station, corner of Hawthorne and Redondo Beach boulevards, and escaped with \$285 in bills.

Elmer Roy Dove, 800 North Pacific, Redondo Beach, the attendant, told Captain Willard Haslam of the Torrance Police Department that the thief demanded the money, but no silver, be placed in a paper bag. He then fled to a waiting car and disappeared, Dove said.

## Fire Destroys Vacation Clothes; Smoke, Heat Damage Apartment

A small child playing with matches is believed the cause of a fire which started in the clothes closet last Friday of a home at 2214 Cabrillo avenue, Apt. A.

Mrs. James Clark, occupant, told Fire Chief J. J. Benner her four-year-old daughter, Verna Lynn came running out into the yard where she was hanging clothes and shouted: "Mommie, I didn't mean to do it."

Mrs. Clark ran into the house to find it filled with smoke and the closet in flames.

A five-piece new luggage set and new clothes intended to be taken on the Clark's vacation were destroyed in the fire. The house suffered extensive damage from smoke and heat which blistered ceilings and walls.

Owner of the apartment is Mrs. F. G. Ceell, 2214 Cabrillo.

The Clark girl, her sister and neighbor child ran from the house and escaped unharmed, according to Captain Gene Walker, who along with Chief Benner, directed the fire fighting efforts of the local department.

The firemen of Engine Number 2 were summoned to the fire from the scene of two grass fires on Madrona avenue, one north the other south of Carson street which they were fighting at the time the Clark residence fire alarm came in. The grass fires were believed set by an unknown person.

**For Recreation Program**  
Allocation of \$4822 of County funds to assist the City of Torrance and the Torrance Unified School District was voted Tuesday by the Board of Supervisors after a motion was introduced by Supervisor Raymond V. Darby.

The monies are granted to be used in the community recreation programs for the fiscal year 1951-52. No plan for its distribution between the city and the school has been made.