LA City Moves to Rap Torrance Annexation Plans

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TAXES HIKED HALF CENT IN MILLION $ BUDGET

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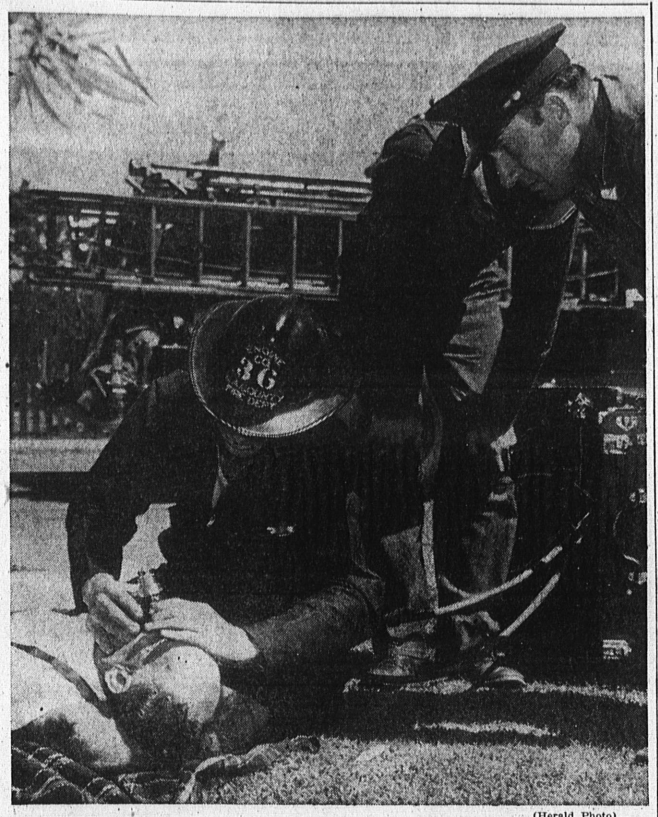
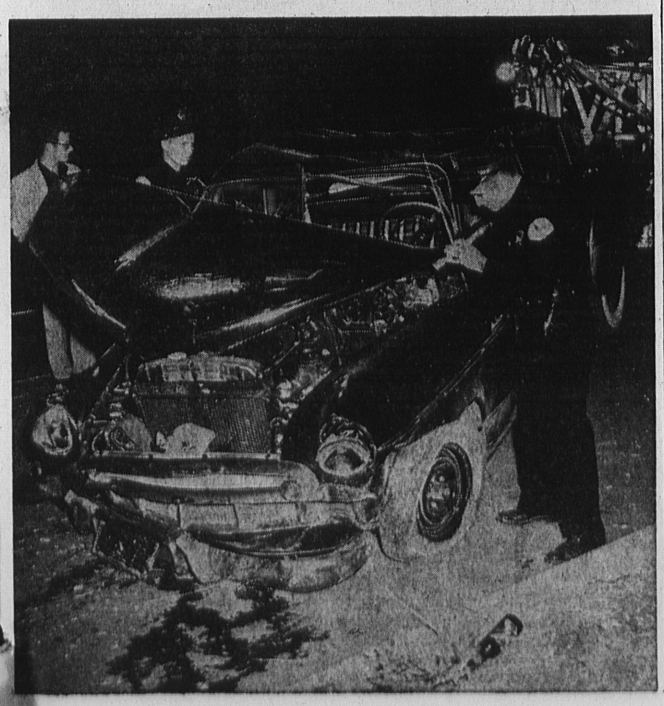


(Herald Photo)

RESCUE WORKERS . . . County firemen used a resuscitator for more than 30 minutes in an attempt to revive Robert McCartney, 70, after he collapsed at the scene of a minor traffic accident yesterday afternoon. McCartney later was pronounced dead on arrival at a hospital. Pictured are firemen Ralph Kingsland, kneeling; Ted Green, and engineer Ernest Mortimer, at right.

Will Your Labor Day End Like This?

It Did For Many Last Year!



Excitement of Accident Blamed For Fatal Attack

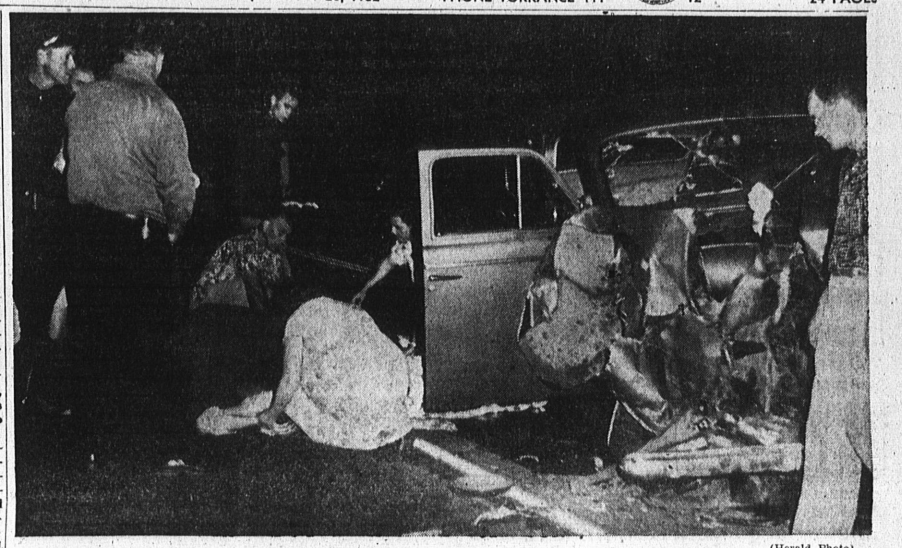
Excitement following a very minor traffic accident involving a Lomita and a Torrance man yesterday afternoon was blamed for a heart attack which proved fatal to Robert McCartney, 70, of 24817 Cypress Ave.

McCartney, a retired carpenter, had collided with a car driven by Robert L. Todd, of 18429 Roslin Ave. and the two were standing in the intersection discussing the wreck when McCartney was seized with the attack.

A passing California Highway Patrol officer, Matt D. Ryan, was hailed to the scene seconds before McCartney slumped to the street.

He quickly radioed for assistance, and started administering artificial respiration. A County Fire Department squad relieved the officer and worked with a resuscitator for 30 minutes, to no avail.

McCartney was pronounced dead on arrival at Hillside Clinic by Dr. Thomas Simcox, according to Deputy Sheriff Earl Snyder.



(Herald Photo)

FOUR INJURED HERE . . . Four young persons were injured, three of whom are still listed as "critical" at Harbor General Hospital, when their auto rammed into the rear of a heavy gasoline tanker on Main St. between Sepulveda and Lomita Blvds. Monday night. The car was completely demolished.

Los Angeles Puts Blocks to Annexation Try

Plans of Torrance to annex a 17-acre strip of land along Western Ave. in the Kettler Knolls area received a severe setback this week when the Los Angeles City Planning Commission recommended against detachment of the area from Los Angeles.

Action of the Planning Commission was sent to the Los Angeles City Council with the explanation that the commission could find "no compelling reason for the detachment."

The proposal of Torrance to annex the area to simplify the problem of subdividing had previously been criticized by Superintendent of Schools J. H. Hull and by Harbor City Chamber of Commerce officials.

Summer Program To End Tonight In Open House

Final activity in the summer recreation program will get under way at the Civic Auditorium at 7 this evening with the Playground Revue and Open House.

On the program are crafts displays made by children during the summer, awards of certificates for swim tests, sports contests, and pee wee and midget softball.

Topping off the program will be a talent show selected from the best on each playground to be highlighted by the selection of a King and Queen to reign over the evening's festivities.

NO BURNING, PLEASE, SMOG BUREAU ASKS

To comply with a request by the County Air Pollution Control office, a "no burning" order was issued yesterday to apply to today also, according to the Torrance Fire Department.

Council Adopts Budget, Tax Rates

A city tax rate of $1.125 for the next fiscal year was adopted by the City Council Tuesday evening. The new rate represents a one-half cent increase over last year.

The preliminary budget submitted last month by City Manager George Stevens proposed that the rate be increased by three cents.

Release of the city's valuation figures put at $60,151,580 by County Assessor John R. Quinn, however, enabled the council to reduce the proposed tax rate.

The one-half cent increase in the 1952-53 budget will go to the library fund. The general fund rate was held at 96 cents, the retirement fund rate at 12 cents, but the library fund rate was raised to 4½ cents.

A $12,000 item in last year's budget for elections was eliminated for 1952-53 — there being no city elections scheduled. Also reduce din this year's budget were appropriations for the bus operation fund and in the printing funds.

The operating budget for the year was set at $1,012,286 —the city's first million dolar budget. It calls for an unappropriated reserve of $23,853.

Receiving the biggest slice of the city's funds was the Police Department which was allocated $208,836. The Fire Department received $191,334, and the Street Department $144,274.

In submitting the budget, City Manager Stevens said the unappropriated reserve of $23,853 should be sufficient providing severe winter conditions or some other unexpected emergency did not occur. He also reported that during the first two months of the current fiscal year, revenues from sources other than taxation have been maintained at a satisfactory level.

El Nido Sewer Plans Adopted by Supervisors

Plans and specifications were approved by the Board of Supervisors Tuesday and a resolution of intention adopted to install sanitary sewers in the El Nido area bounded by Hawthorne Ave., Inglewood Ave., 182nd St., and 186th St., according to Supervisor Raymond V. Darby.

Five Fires, All At Once, Blamed On Fast Firebug

A firebug yesterday was blamed for a series of grass fires which filled the air with smoke before firemen, running from fire to fire, were able to stamp them out.

Four separate blazes were battled along Crenshaw Blvd. between Sepulveda Blvd. and Carson St., and another was extinguished on Sepulveda Blvd. near Cherry St., all at the same time yesterday afternoon.

Two Torrance fire rigs, commanded by Battalion Chief Neil Whitney, jumped from area to area as headquarters' radio dispatcher Jerry Loy gave them the calls.

Virtually at the same time, an upholstery fire was turned in at 1671 Cravens Ave., and an engine was dispatched from another fire to handle it.

Then, to top it off, a grass fire at 230th St. and Hawthorne Blvd. was reported. Firemen from the Walteria station moved in to tackle that one.

Busy Wife's Got Nothing On FD

Brother, a busy housewife trying to clean the house, cook dinner and mind the baby all at once, has nothing on a fireman.

Yesterday, while fire engines were dashing from grass fire to grass fire, in came this radio call from a truck to the headquarters' attention.

"Tell someone to go upstairs and turn off the fire under the potatoes."

Traffic Toll Mounts In Highway Crashes

Prospects for a death-free week-end over the traditionally bloody Labor Day period looked gloomy yesterday as the pre-holiday traffic toll loomed to greater heights.

One man was killed and five others injured, three still in critical condition at Harbor General Hospital, in three traffic mishaps this week.

Killed as he was crossing Figueroa St. near 220th St. Sunday afternoon was Bert L. Geouge Sr., of 20717 Elliott St., for nine years a resident of Torrance.

Driver of the car which struck Geduge was listed by California Highway Patrol officers as James Z. Prevost, 21, a Navy man stationed at San Diego. He was not held. Geouge was rushed to Harbor General Hospital by Jacobs ambulance, but was pronounced dead on arrival.

On Critical List

At Harbor General Hospital in critical condition are three young people, Clovis and Betty Anderson of Wilmington, and Peggy Lorango, 21, of Los Angeles. Miss Lorango suffering from facial lacerations, fractured leg, and extreme shock, was yesterday listed as in "very critical" condition by hospital attaches.

Allisson Anderson, 20, also of Wilmington, was listed as "fair." He is suffering from possible fractures of both legs, lacerated scalp and head injuries.

The four were hurt when their car bashed into the rear of a gasoline semi-truck and trailer on Main St. south of Sepulveda Blvd. late Monday night. California Highway Patrol officers R. Walker and R. Griffin said that the truck apparently had slowed down to make a turn when the Anderson car crashed into the rear.

Driver of the truck was Walter Knouse, 48, also of Wilmington.

Cut Elbow

Another traffic victim this week was Claude L. Godwin, of 21900 S. Figueroa St., injured in a mishap at Ocean and Main Sts., Monday afternoon. He was taken by Jacobs ambulance to Harbor General Hospital, where he was treated for a lacerated right elbow.

Chief of Police John Stroh has joined in a warning issued by the California Highway Patrol to motorists that every available officer will be on duty over the holiday to keep the traffic toll at a minimum. More than 20 persons were killed last Labor Day, and more than 700 persons were injured.

More than 5000 arrests were made throughout the state during that period last year.

Hold Services

Funeral services for Geouge were conducted yesterday at the Stone and Myers Chapel, with the Rev. C. M. Northrup officiating. Burial took place at Roosevelt Cemetery.

Survivors include a son, Bert, of the Elliott St. address; a daughter, three brothers; a sister and four grandchildren.

Still at Harbor General Hospital in serious condition is Raymond Wilcox, 30, of 23321 Catskill Ave., who was hurled from a car last Friday morning after a two-car crash at 190th St. near Beryl St. A passenger, Jack E. Storey, 30, of 508 E. 223rd St., was killed in the accident.

Bedroom Loot Yields $275

A burglar who evidently crawled through a window in an unoccupied bedroom made off with a diamond-studded lady's wrist watch valued at $125, and a man's yellow gold ring valued at $150, Mrs. W. A. Kennedy reported to Torrance police.

Mrs. Kennedy said that she had been out of the house, at 3323 W. 189th St., but theorized the thief entered through a back room that is seldom used, police advised.