

Little Chuckie Loses Battle to Cancer, Awaits Death

By Agnes Bolter

It might be tonight, tomorrow, or next month, but a blond, curly-haired boy in Walteria who was always "happy to be alive" is going to lose his battle for life against a dread enemy.

"Chuckie" Smith, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Smith, of 3514 Crickwood St., is suffering from "retino blastoma with metastases," a medicine for a malignant cancer which began in his right eye and has spread throughout his tiny body. There

is no hope for recovery. He is only two years and nine months old, and death will come, doctors say, before his third birthday.

The disease has been lurking in the boy's body since birth. "Right after we brought him home from the hospital," his mother said, "he cried a lot at night. The doctor thought it was colic and time after time ordered changes in the baby's milk formula.

"We tried formula after formula. Chuckie grew from a baby to a toddling one-year-old. He

was a happy child, loving to laugh and play, just glad to be alive. But at night he would wake up crying, and many times during the day he would say, 'Mommy, I hurt.'"

His parents took him to many doctors, but they could detect nothing. Then, last August, when his eyes began to cross, they took him to an eye specialist.

The specialist found a growth behind the left eye. It was cancer.

An operation at that time and another in January removed the

organ, and after radium treatments, it seemed that the disease was conquered. The Smiths nursed hope that Chuckie would recover.

Then, during a routine check-up last Friday, technicians discovered that the red corpuscles in Chuckie's blood stream were disappearing. His liver was enlarged, and he complained of pains in his stomach.

Doctors gave him a transfusion, but within two days the healthy blood was eaten up by the cancerous growth. The dis-

ease had spread throughout the bone marrow and blood stream to every vital organ in the blue-eyed lad's body.

"There's nothing we can do now except try to ease his pain and wait for the end," the doctors said.

The Smiths brought their baby home, wanting to make his last days as comfortable and cheerful as possible. "We're going to keep him here until the pain becomes so great that we have to hospitalize him and

keep him under drugs," his mother said.

Despite the weakness which daily plagues him, Chuckie until yesterday maintained a cheerful attitude, playing with his two ducklings given to him for Easter and looking at picture books with his one good eye.

Yesterday he lay on a couch all day, a doll almost his own size beside him. Sitting at his feet was his dark-haired mother, her blue eyes blurred with tears as she told of the battle against the disease.

"He used to love strawberry pop with ice cream. Now he won't touch it," she said. "He was so active, waking us up at 6 o'clock in the morning to have us read to him or play the phonograph. Now he just lies here, slipping away from us."

Chuckie's father, Army veteran of World War II who works at the Naval shipyards on Terminal Island, came to kiss the boy goodbye before he left the house. Chuckie didn't look up.

"He won't look at anybody,"

his mother said, "and he doesn't want anyone to look at him."

The baby's nine-year-old sister, Roberta Louise, knelt in anxious solicitude by his side. Once she touched his forehead above the removed eye. He squirmed in pain and cried out, "Mommy!"

"We're reconciled that Chuckie has to go," Mrs. Smith said. "After you live with that knowledge for a while you get used to it. But it's a hard thing to understand. We'll have to fight it out in our own way, as every one must when tragedy strikes."

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CITY FILES 20-COUNT SUIT AGAINST BUILDING COMPANY

Building Firm Sued For Code Violations

Princeton Construction Corp. was named yesterday in a 20-count misdemeanor complaint filed by the city in South Bay Municipal Court charging the firm with 20 violations of the building code construction of five North Torrance homes last year.

Four code violations were alleged in each of five homes built on Patronella Ave. by the firm between April 19, 1953, and July 9, 1953, according to the complaint drawn up by City Attorney James M. Hall.

Homes named in the complaint were those at 16707, 16714, 16715, 16719, and 16821 Patronella Ave., all in North Torrance. Four counts of code violation were alleged for each home.

The complaint charged that the builder violated the provision of the Uniform Building Code of 1949 which has been adopted by the city, by (1) permitting improper construction of fireplaces in that the masonry chimney was not supported on a foundation designed as required by the code and that the depth of the footing under the chimney was less than 18 inches below grade and that the firm did not provide a design to justify a depth of less than 18 inches.

(2) That 2x4 rafters set at 32 inches exceeded maximum spacing permitted of 6 ft. 10 in., and at 24 inches, exceeded maximum spacing permitted of 7 ft. 11 in.

(3) By permitting improper construction of footings supporting the foundations under exterior walls; footings not located at depth of 18 inches below grade, nor a design provided to justify footings of less than 18 inches.

(4) By failing to provide solid blocking between floor joists over supports as required in the code, and adequate end support for floor girders supporting floor joists.

The City Attorney pointed out that this is a criminal, not a civil action.

Mystery Attack On Shoe Seller Puzzles Police

Police were searching today for the mysterious assailant who rapped a Kafeteria Shoe Store salesman over the head five times with a blackjack Tuesday evening and then left the store without taking money or merchandise.

Salesman Melvin Silver, 39, of Los Angeles, was treated for head lacerations and a broken wrist. He told police that the attacker entered the store, at 1115 Sartori Ave., about 20 minutes before the attack and picked some white tennis shoes. He then left, presumably to look in other stores, and returned 15 minutes later, asking Silver to see the tennis shoes again.

Silver took the man to the rear of the store, he said, and as he was reaching up to get the shoes he was struck over the head with a heavy object resembling a blackjack. The assailant said: "Don't move or I'll kill you," then struck Silver four more times.

The suspect then left the store, without taking anything, and was last seen on foot. He was described as a white, male American, 35 to 40 years old, five feet 10 inches tall, with curly brown hair.

One 'Critical' In Western Ave. Three-Car Crash

One of the drivers involved in a three-car smashup on Western Ave. Saturday afternoon was in "critical" condition yesterday at Harbor General Hospital.

The driver, Dorothy Lee Denney, 27, of 10251 Western Ave., is suffering from fractured ribs and internal injuries. Another victim, Walter Raymond Dye, 27, of 1099 Torrance Blvd., was discharged yesterday from Harbor Hospital.

Driver of the third car, Byron Tarwater, 37, of 4029 W. 149th St., was not injured. According to police records, Tarwater was turning left to enter the Douglas Aircraft plant when Mrs. Denney collided with the rear of his car and bounced into the opposite lane, hitting Dye head on.

Dye and Tarwater were traveling south and the woman was going north on Western Ave.

Dye, an employee of Harvey Machine Co., received facial injuries.

Torrance Leads State in Growth

Torrance registered one of the greatest increases in population of any city in California during the period 1950 to 1953, according to figures released this week by the US Census Bureau's district office at Los Angeles.

Out of 76 cities in the state which required special censuses to be held in 1953, Torrance was one of three in which the population more than doubled. The other two were Port Hueneque, which increased from 3,924 in 1950 to 7,388, and West Covina, which jumped from 4,499 to 13,088.

Torrance's growth during the three year period went from 22-241 to 44,914. Special censuses are conducted in cities in which the population has increased sufficiently over the regular 1950 census figure to allow new population bases for allotments of tax funds, distributed by the State on a per capita basis.

Torrance's growth during the three year period went from 22-241 to 44,914. Special censuses are conducted in cities in which the population has increased sufficiently over the regular 1950 census figure to allow new population bases for allotments of tax funds, distributed by the State on a per capita basis.

Five File Papers For School Posts

Five names were in the race for local Board of Education posts when nominations closed yesterday.

Joining William Tolson, incumbent, and Dr. Joseph T. Bay, who filed last month, were Mrs. Opal Benard, a past president of Torrance Council PTA; Edward Schwartz, El Camino College instructor; and C. A. Mewborn, local attorney.

Filing for the El Camino board to succeed Charles Ver Jones were Jack N. Dabbs, manager of M & M Enterprises, operators of the Stadium and Torrance theaters; and J. Hugh Sherkey Jr., former Torrance mayor, member of the city's Planning Commission, and operator of Stone and Myers Mortuary.

The membership chairman position is set for May 21.

Another item which came under discussion was the need in Torrance for a Mental Hygiene Clinic. Future meetings will be held in Room Four of the Greenwood School on the third Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m.



MAYOR NICKOLAS DRALE . . . Trying out the "Big Chair" and getting his nameplate ready for some alterations is Nicholas O. Drale, re-elected to the Council two years ago, who was named mayor to succeed Mervin M. Schwab at the Council's meeting Tuesday.

Street Hazards Scored by Group

Major hazards caused by lack of proper street lighting, sidewalks and traffic safeguards were the problems discussed Tuesday evening at a meeting of the newly-formed Torrance Coordinating Council.

Also cited by the group was the lack of recreation facilities for teenagers. Mrs. Evelyn Carr was appointed chairman of a committee to study the recreation needs of youth and find ways to supply them.

The membership chairman position was taken by Mrs. Opal Benard.

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WEATHER
Early morning fog and drizzle, with partial clearing before noon and hazy afternoon sunshine. Little change in temperature, high—67 degrees.



LONG CAMPAIGN CLIMAXED . . . Albert Isen, who has been working up to this moment for a number of years, accepts his oath of office from City Clerk A. H. Bartlett. An unsuccessful candidate two years ago, Isen won the top vote in the April 13 balloting.



STARTS SECOND TERM . . . Councilman Willys G. Blount, right, accepts his oath from City Clerk A. H. Bartlett after he was declared re-elected as a result of the April 13 balloting. He was first elected four years ago along with Harvey B. Spelman Jr., who did not run this year.

Mrs. Leech Thanks Voters of Torrance
Mrs. Harriet V. Leech, re-elected to serve as City Treasurer, this week extended her thanks to the many persons who supported her candidacy at the polls on April 13.

"I am very grateful for the many people who took the time to work for my re-election, and assure them that I shall continue to perform the duties of City Treasurer to the best of my ability," she said.

Tot Revived By Rescue Squad When Breath Stops
A Gardena Fire Department rescue squad is credited with reviving a one-month-old Torrance boy whose breathing had been cut off by a respiratory infection Monday.

The lad, Duane Fahler, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Fahler, 18502 Arlington Ave., was given 300 lbs. of air by the Gardena Inhalator squad. The Torrance rescue group was called and stood by to offer aid.



LOSING LIFE'S BATTLE . . . "Chuckie" Smith, 2½-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Smith, 3514 Crickwood St., was still "up and at 'em" Monday afternoon, playing with his Easter basket. Yesterday he lay listless on a couch all day. He is suffering from cancer and death will come, doctors say, before he reaches his third birthday.

Drale Picked as City's New Mayor

The Benstead-Isen-Drale ticket which campaigned vigorously for the City Council two years ago, took over the reins of city government here last Tuesday evening when Albert Isen, who won his seat on the Council two years after the other two, occupied the chair just vacated by outgoing Councilman, Harvey B. Spelman Jr.

And the veteran of the trio, Councilman Nicholas O. Drale, was immediately named mayor to succeed Mervin M. Schwab, who had held the center seat for two years.

Selection of the new mayor surprised some of the disappointed others who had expected a bare-knuckle fight for the post.

Rumors of a backstage battle between Isen and Drale supporters to have their man put in the mayor's chair which many expected to continue onto the Council floor Tuesday fizzled out, and the selection of Drale for the No. 1 Council job was routine.

Councilman Victor E. Benstead, rising from the sick bed and in the company of his physician, Dr. Russell Shea of Redondo, attended the latter part of the meeting. He nominated Drale, Councilman Isen, barely settled in his chair, seconded the nomination, and it carried 3-0, with Drale casting the needed third vote for himself.

Councilman Willys G. Blount, who was reelected for a four-year term, and Mervin M. Schwab, who had just vacated the mayor's chair, abstained.

Thus the balance of power on the City Council shifted. Where Drale and Benstead have been occupying roles of the minority on most matters, they are now in charge of the situation.

Drale was obviously happy with the events and promised the sacked Council chamber that "This Council is to be a Council of action, not a Council of words."

He told the crowded room that "this was a happy night for the Isen family, Benstead family, Drale family, and the Cuel family."

In a short acceptance speech, the only new Councilman at the table, Albert Isen, paid tribute to Harvey Spelman for his contribution to the city as a member of the Council, suggesting that he would like to have an advisory committee to the Council formed in various areas of the city; paid tribute to City Clerk A. H. Bartlett, who he said was City Clerk when Isen graduated from Torrance High School in 1924; and introduced R. R. "Dick" Smith, the second mayor of Torrance.

The new Council will get down

Acosta Trial Date May 5

Trial is slated to be held May 5 in Long Beach Superior Court for Correlas Acosta, 24, Mexican farm laborer who is accused of two counts of manslaughter arising from an auto and taxi crash at Pacific Coast Hwy. and Hawthorne Ave. two weeks ago.

Other charges against Acosta are one count of unlawful driving and one of grand theft auto. His bail has been set at \$10,000. He is accused of stealing a taxicab, and ramming it broadside into another car, killing a mother and her nine-month-old son.

King Makes Fast Trip Home for Series of Talks
Congressman Cecil R. King has been making a hurried visit through the 17th Congressional District this week during an Easter vacation called by Congress.

He returned from Washington Saturday to fill 15 speaking engagements in the district, and will return to his Washington office this week-end, where congress is expected to be in session until July.

King started out his whirlwind visit Saturday evening by attending a Shriners Barbecue in Inglewood. Monday he appeared in Wilmington, Torrance, and Redondo campaign headquarters, Tuesday evening he attended the round-robin rally in Wilmington, Gardena, and Redondo, and yesterday afternoon he attended a luncheon at the Fish Shanty where he was honored by women's groups from Palos Verdes, Riviera, Rolling Hills, and Portuguese Bend.

He still plans visits in Westchester, El Segundo, and San Pedro before returning to Washington.