TORRANCE HERALD SALE ANNOUNCED

THIRD $30,000 ROBBERY SUSPECT ARRESTED IN PORTLAND BY FBI

PUBLISHED EVERY SUNDAY AND THURSDAY MORNING — the ONLY Newspaper Published AND PRINTED in Torrance. Established 1914.

TORRANCE HERALD

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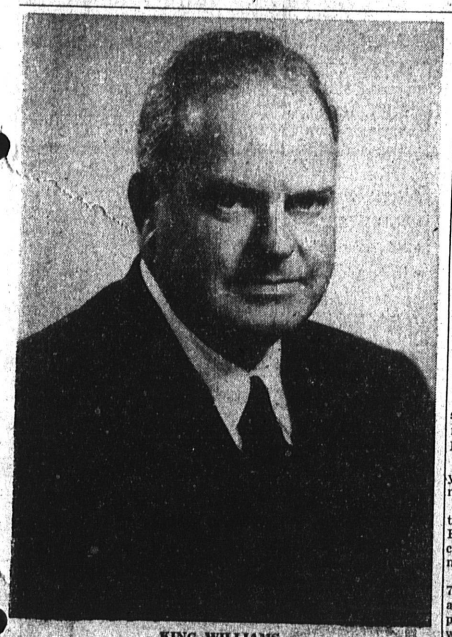

KING WILLIAMS
. . . To Become Herald Publisher

Veteran Publisher Purchases Herald

Control of the Torrance Herald has been acquired by King Williams of Flintridge, Calif., and Chicago Heights, Ill., it was revealed yesterday in a statement released by Williams and Mrs. Grover C. Whyte, Herald publisher.

The Torrance Herald, established here on Jan. 1, 1914, was published for many years by the late Grover C. Whyte, and has been under the direction of Mrs. Whyte since her husband's death last year.

The new Torrance Herald publisher, who will take over on June 1, is a veteran of the publishing business. He and a brother have been associated in a publishing firm in Chicago Heights which was founded by their father 53 years ago. The firm, now operated by the brother, publishes three newspapers: The Homewood-Flossmoor Star, the Park Forest Star, and the Chicago Heights Star.

To Live Here

Formerly trained in journalism at the University of Illinois, Williams is past president of the Cook County (Chicago) Illinois Publishers Association, he was a director for two terms on the Illinois State Chamber of Commerce, a member of Rotary International, and Phi Sigma Kappa fraternity. He plans to make his home here and enter the civic activities of the community, he said.

The new publisher is married, and his one son, King Jr., of Altadena, is resuming medical studies after service with the Air Force overseas.

Many Offers

In announcing the sale of the newspaper to Williams, Mrs. Whyte said:

"Since the death of my late husband, I have had many interests approach me seeking to buy the Torrance Herald. I selected Mr. Williams because his background of training and experience represented to me the best tradition of the newspaper profession.

"I feel that "I am placing this 40-year-old newspaper in competent, trustworthy hands."

Mrs. Whyte will relinquish all active management of the Herald but will remain on the staff in an advisory capacity, it was announced.

Some additions will be made to the Torrance Herald staff but no other changes are contemplated, the new publisher said.

High School Double Session Slate Told

Designed for an expected enrollment of 2050 students, a schedule of double sessions for Torrance High School was submitted to Superintendent of Schools J. H. Hull this week by High School Principal Bruce Magner.

The new schedule will go into effect in the 1954-55 school year, pending completion of the new North Torrance High School.

Students will attend classes in two sessions of five periods each. Each period will be 44 minutes, compared to six periods of 55 minutes each in effect this year.

The first session begins at 7:30 a.m. and ends at 11:40 am, the second runs from 12:20 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. Snack time will be cut from 15 minutes to 10 minutes in the new arrangement.

Sepulveda Divides Students

Students have been divided geographically on attendance area to give balance to the sessions. All students living south of Sepulveda Blvd. will attend the early session and also, students living west of Madrona Ave. and south of 190th St. will attend the early session.

Others who will attend the early classes are seniors and students with special problems in programming, such as athletes. All other students will attend the later session.

It is expected that, out of an anticipated 2050 students, approximately 1135 will attend the early session and 915 the later.

Won't Affect Education

Dr. Hull stated that the shortened schedule will not affect the amount of education that each student receives. He said that double sessions are not unusual in high schools and, in fact, are being used more and more across the nation as the high birth rate hits the schools.

The new arrangement is designed to prepare the district for the peak of enrollment that will hit all high schools as the high birth rate of the post-war years takes effect.

Magner's report states: "It is well to have this experience now, for later, when the peak of enrollment and high birth rates hits the high school, it will un-

(Continued on Page 11)

Regular School Day Set Monday

All Torrance schools will remain on regular schedule on Monday, May 31—Memorial Day—it was announced this week.

Students in elementary and high schools will attend classes on that day at the same hours.

Former Chamber President Ill After Attack

Hospitalized following a severe heart attack last week in Bakersfield is Robert I. Plomert Jr., manager of the General Petroleum Corp. property tax division, and Torrance civic leader.

Plomert was in Bakersfield on a business trip when the attack occurred, his associates reported. He is now in Room 722 of Good Samaritan Hospital, Los Angeles, where his doctor says he will be "away from his work for at least six weeks." He is presently allowed no visitors or phone calls.

He was recently named chairman of the Torrance YMCA board of managers and has served twice as president of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce, and as president of the Torrance Industries Tax Committee.

During his absence from duties at the YMCA, first vice-chairman D. M. Sowle will assume his responsibilities, according to YMCA Secretary Stan Roberts.

Victim Points Out Suspects in Brutal Beating

A Harbor City man who was severely beaten by five hooligans in his room Sunday identified three of the alleged assailants Tuesday and police believe that they are part of a gang that has been terrorizing cafe and drive-in customers in the Harbor area.

While 10 other hoodlums "took over" a cafe at 253rd St. and Belleporte Ave., where the victim works, five others invaded his room and beat him with beer bottles, feet and fists.

The victim, Raphel Moten, 28, of 1414 W. 253rd St., pointed out James W. Caples, 23, his brother, Clarence Caples, 21, both of 23850 Park St., Walteria and William Stokes, 22, of Lawndale, as three of the gang.

Hold Patrons

Police said the gang went to the cafe seeking Moten and, while one group kept patrons from leaving, the others broke into Moten's room and beat him up.

The youths were seeking Moten under the impression that he had been involved in a fight with one of their number in a Shoestring Strip Cafe last week. Moten denied that he had been in the fight.

The trio are being held in San Pedro jail on assault with deadly weapons charges and police were seeking complaints yesterday.

Officers believe the gang is one which has been causing fights at various cafes and drive-ins during the past few months.

WEATHER

Cloudy early this morning but clearing this afternoon and sunny skies is the weather picture for today in Torrance and vicinity. Little change in temperature is expected, with a high near 72 degrees.

(Herald Photo)

FACE TO FACE . . . Raphel Moten, of Harbor City, left, faces three of a gang of five youths who are accused of beating him up Sunday in his bedroom. The three are, left to right, William Stokes, of Lawndale, and James and Clarence Caples, brothers, of Walteria.

Legion Seeks Names for War Memorial Plaque

Bert S. Crossland Post 170, American Legion, is seeking help in compiling a list of servicemen killed in World War II and the Korean War for a memorial plaque which will be presented to the city, according to Vernon Coil, service officer.

Anyone who knows of a person or persons killed in either of these conflicts is requested to call the City Hall, FAirfax 8-5310; Torrance Herald, FAirfax 8-4000; Legion Hall, FAirfax 8-9726; or V. E. Benstead, chairman, at FAirfax 8-1237.

Local Police Wait For Word on Suspect

By AGNES BOLTER

Torrance Police late yesterday were sitting tight awaiting official word from the Federal Bureau of Investigation in Portland, Ore., that they could "get their man," Paul Franks, 32, formerly of 1627 W. 203rd St., who allegedly was one of a daring bandit trio robbing the National Supply Co. Employees' Credit Union of $30,000 a year ago last April.

Several newspapers in the Harbor area called the station regarding an Associated Press release which told that Franks had been captured by the FBI in Portland. Det. Capt. Ernie Ashton said. The report also said that Franks has since been charged with a Pennsylvania burglary involving $800 in postal money orders.

A state warrant for Frank's arrest, with $5000 bail, is still out, said Ashton, as well as a federal warrant for unlawful flight to avoid prosecution, which enables the FBI to pick up the offender in any other state for trial here. "In the meantime, all we can do is sit tight and wait until we receive word from the FBI," he said.

Get-Away Driver

Franks allegedly drove the get-away car as it sped from the scene of the crime on April 2 after Don Madlung, 32, of 1648 Cabrillo Ave., and William McNally, 25, of 1305 Post Ave., had slugged and robbed Joe Alden, manager of the credit union, as he was returning from the bank to National Supply Co. with funds to conduct his weekly check-cashing business.

The bandits slugged Alden in the face and clipped him under the chin, knocking off the glasses of the 'nearly blind" credit union man before they copped the cash-filled briefcase, McNally confessed to police after surrendering here three days later. The daring crew assaulted Alden at the intersection of Double and Border Aves., directly in front of National Supply Co.'s main entrance.

McNally told police the trio parked the get-away car in a Long Beach garage, purchased a 1950 automobile, and took off for Tijuana, returning later to Los Angeles. They split up then, with McNally coming here and the other two reportedly heading east.

Others Sentenced

Both McNally and Madlung, who was picked up by police later, were sentenced on a charge of robbery for five to 15 years in a state penitentiary. McNally is now serving his term at San Quentin while Madlung is in Los Angeles County Jail awaiting a hearing on an appeal.

The FBI was in and out of the case, stepping in when it was learned that credit union funds were federally insured, then backing out again until a federally-conducted audit of the books could be made. In the meantime, G-men filed warrants charging the bandits at large with fleeing prosecution.

Theft Confessed

Alden, a resident of 25114 Woodward Ave., Lomita, confessed to embezzling $7628 of credit funds after plans for the federal audit were disclosed.

Alden served six months in the Los Angeles County Jail on the embezzlement charge and is now free on five-year probation, with the provision that he make restitution to the credit union for the missing funds.

Pilot Lights On Lit-Up Ball Field in Paris

Flyer Wallace Clayton Hakes took off for North Carolina recently and ended up in a Paris boiler factory—almost.

Hakes, who lives at 2326D Dominguez St., was headed for North Carolina but planned to land in Paris, which may seem out of a roundabout route unless it's explained that there's also a Paris, Texas.

Anyhow, when Hakes reached the East Texas city it was so dark he couldn't find a landing place. So he circled the community for 45 minutes until he had only 10 minutes of fuel left, then decided to land on a boiler factory baseball diamond, which was lighted for a night game.

Civil Air Patrol members, police and factory workers lined their cars up around the field with lights on and Hakes came down safely. He said he was "frightened badly."

School Official Denies 'Surplus' Plans Charge

School Superintendent J. H. Hull yesterday labeled charges by a City Councilman that the school discarded $30,000 to $35,000 worth of plans without using them as "a very irresponsible statement for a public official to make."

Councilman Victor E. Benstead Jr. made the remark during discussion by the Council on hiring of an architect to draw up plans for Fire Department improvements voted in the recent bond election.

In commenting on architect fees, Councilman Benstead said the school paid $30,000 to $35,000 for plans for a school and then discarded them.

Superintendent Hull challenged the Councilman to be more specific on the charge.

"Let him name the school or the architect or retract the statement," Dr. Hull said.

"We haven't bought a single set of plans which have not been used,' the superintendent continued.

Isen Elected To Head Local Red Cross Group

City Councilman Albert Isen has been named chairman of the Torrance Branch American Red Cross to succeed W. A. "Dick" Felker.

Election of Isen for the top Red Cross job in Torrance came at an annual meeting of the chapter in the City Council Chambers last week.

Named to serve with Isen with the Red Cross were Mrs. Leo McMillen, first vice-president; Mrs. William Cockran, secretary; Mrs. Douglas Thomas, treasurer.

Attending the meeting here with local Red Cross volunteers were Victor Davenport, Southern Cities chairman for Red Cross; and Roger Lydon, assistant director of disaster services for Los Angeles County.

(Herald Photo)

HAPPY . . . Mrs. Nell Colburn, left chairman of the YWCA Board, and Mrs. Robert Mowry, secretary of the Torrance Scout Center Group and Junior Woman's Club representative smile happily as Mayor Nick Drale signs a lease granting the Scout Center land behind the present YWCA on a 25-year lease basis at a total cost of $1 per year. The YWCA agreed to an amendment to their lease boundaries to allow the Scout Center lease.

City Leases Land To Scout Center At Bargain Price

Plans for a $35,000 Scout Center for Torrance got a boost this week when the City of Torrance leased land behind the YWCA building to the Scout Center group for 25 years at $1 per year.

The Torrance YWCA Board cooperated by accepting an amendment to its lease boundaries in order to make it possible for the City Council to lease the land for the Scout Center.

Next step in the plans is to

(Continued on Page 11)