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PHONE FAirfax 8-4000



BEFORE FLIGHT . . . Beside Beechcraft Bonanza, used in aerial inspection of Torrance Saturday are, left to right, King Williams, Herald publisher; Pilot Warren Baird of Baird Aircraft, Lockheed Air Terminal; Councilman Willys Blount; and Ed Dietrich, manager of Torrance Municipal Airport.

## Flight Thrills Herald Reporter

By AGNES BÖLTER

Hands off the controls, we zoomed from 4000 feet above ground to 700 feet, then leveled off, coming gradually down to make a perfect landing in the Beechcraft Bonanza at Torrance Municipal Airport.

That was the thrilling end of an aerial inspection of Torrance made Saturday by Councilman Willys Blount and new Herald Publisher King Williams. Blount flew the plane, but Pilot Warren Baird, of Baird Aircraft, Lockheed Air Terminal, was at dual controls in case the Councilman made any errors. I went along for the ride.

Landing the single-engine plane took a matter of minutes. At 4000 feet altitude, Blount

at the pilot's direction, set a small lever, and down went the plane, with no hand to guide its descent. Straight as an arrow it flew, which is quite a feat when you stop to realize that most planes descending at that speed, about 180 miles an hour, might go into a spiral.

### Horn Blows

When we were about 700 feet off the ground, a horn blew. That was the signal to let down the landing gear. Then Blount took over the controls, bringing the 225-horsepower bird of the air to ground with all the grace of a swan.

The plane has a similar rate of climb, about 1500 feet per minute. The Councilman revved up the motor, taxied down the runway, and before we could say "Jack Robinson" we were high above Torrance.

Unfortunately the city was shrouded in haze, so the "inspection" turned out to be a dud although the flight certainly was not.

### Engine Stops

Winging along the coast up Santa Monica way, all of a sudden the sound of the engine ceased, and there we were, suspended in mid-air, 4000 feet above the ground, with no power to continue. Vision of a violent crash and a "no survivors" headline flashed through my mind.

But actually nothing was wrong with the plane at all. The pilot told us he had merely cut the engine to demonstrate another remarkable feature of the plane. Although it seemed that we were stopped cold high above the ground, actually we were gliding along easily.

### Gildes Explained

The plane could glide safely along without doing a nose dive for about 12 miles at that altitude, the pilot said, and if the engine really were out of commission, a forced landing could be made at some area within that radius.

While the passengers would be shaken up a bit, they probably would escape serious injury, the pilot said. The plane would absorb most of the shock of the crash, and safety belt and shoulder harness would hold each passenger to his seat, thus keeping him from banging his head, which is the major cause of death in a plane crash.

### Happy Noise

Still, I was glad when the engine started up again! The flight was my first experience in a small, single-engine craft. The trip was an exhilarating one for a novice, and even for veteran flyers such as the pilot, councilman, and publisher. As Blount put it, "The plane just flies itself!"

(Herald Photo) Baird Aircraft, Lockheed Air Terminal; Councilman Willys Blount; and Ed Dietrich, manager of Torrance Municipal Airport.



READY FOR TAKEOFF . . . Smile lights Councilman Willys Blount's face as he revs up the Bonanza's motor, for an aerial inspection of Torrance.

## Wealthy Walteria Pioneer, Builder Jim Mitchell Dies

A legendary Walteria character, Jim Mitchell, 71, who died last week, left an estate rumored to total a quarter of a million dollars behind him.

A pioneer of the area, Mr. Mitchell came to Walteria 34 years ago, and with his brother Don began building homes around East Ave., then a cantaloupe field. When the depression hit, the Mitchells built more houses, later rented them out to a mass of their fortune. Today, their holdings are valued at nearly a quarter of a million dollars.

### Three Share Farm

Mr. Mitchell lived with his brother and his brother's wife on a small chicken farm at 24017 Neece Ave. Legend has it that the three kept large sums of money in their house and were always quite generous in loaning it out to friends.

### Together 25 Years

The trio lived together for 25 years. Mr. Mitchell never married, but devoted his time generously to helping young people and to contributing to the growth of his community. A large man, Mr. Mitchell tipped the scales at around 300 pounds at the time of his death, but was spry and active up to the last.

### Raised Fryers

Just for something to do, the

three raised about 100 frying chickens a week and sold them. Funeral services were conducted at Gamba's Mortuary in Lomita by the Rev. Andrew Duty and interment was held at Green Hills Cemetery June 15.

Other survivors include two brothers, Robert of Salem, Mass., and William of San Pedro.

## Two North Torrance Homes Burglarized

A Los Angeles police officer was one of the victims of an enterprising burglar who visited two North Torrance homes early Sunday morning.

Officer Roland E. Phillips, 4036 W. 173rd Pl., told Torrance police that his house had been entered and \$5 taken from his pillow. Nathan L. von Iderstein, 4051 W. 174th St., reported a similar entry, with \$20 missing from his wallet. Nothing else was taken.

## Three-Year-Old Bitten, Launch Search for Dog

Unless a vicious dog which stays around the 200 block on W. 214th St. can be captured by next Wednesday, little William Britt, 3, is going to have to take dreaded rabies shots.

William, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Ross Britt, 2116 Gramerey Ave., was bitten by the dog last Sunday as he was playing with his cousin, Leland Paul Davis, 4, in front of the Davis home at 209 W. 214th St.

The dog, a light tan, long-haired spaniel or toy collie, has been the object of a frenzied search by the boy's father, the Humane Society, and a health official. All found the dog, but were unable to catch it or even get close to it. Anyone who knows where the dog may be found should call the Humane Society.

Since the limit for taking rabies shots after being bitten by a dog is 11 days, young William will have to take the shots if the dog is not captured and tested by next Wednesday. Neighbors reported that the dog has snapped at several other people in the area.

## Dog That Bit Man Located, No Rabies

A desperate search for a dog which nipped him Saturday in the Jim Dandy parking lot ended Monday for Paul J. Schotanus, 45, of 809 Teri Ave.

Schotanus, who faced a long and painful series of stomach injections for the prevention of rabies if the dog was not found, discovered the dog's owner Monday.

The animal's owner had a certificate showing that the dog has had a rabies shot within the past year, so Schotanus is out of danger. The dog will be observed for 10 days, however.

Schotanus was walking between two parked cars at the parking lot Saturday when the dog reached through a wing window and nipped him. He went to get a pencil to write down the car's license number and while he was gone the car left.

The clue that led Schotanus to the dog's owner was a Naval Supply Depot sticker on the windshield.

## First All-Girl Class

Fifteen young Annie Oakleys, aged 10 to 17, have the distinction of making up the first all-girl class to graduate under the State's new hunter safety program.



(Herald Photo) NOVEL COFFEE TABLE . . . A. O. Otsea, left, vice-president of California Bank and Wallace Post, president of the former Torrance National Bank, admire coffee table fashioned from plaque that adorned entrance to old bank from 1833 to May last when the local bank was taken over. The heavy bronze plaque was "stolen" from Post's garage by Sam Levy who, with other friends, arranged to have it made into the table. Presentation was made at a banquet held in Post's honor last Wednesday at Smith's Fish Shanty. California Bank officials joined with employees of the bank in feling Post who also received an engraved watch commemorating his long service to Torrance National.

## 296 Volunteer For Blood Bank

New Red Cross regulations, which raised the blood count requirements for men, "made a big difference" in acceptance of blood donors, according to Mrs. Gordon Jones, Red Cross blood recruitment chairman.

Of 296 people reporting to give blood at the Civic Auditorium Monday, 83 were rejected, at least temporarily. The quota set was 250 pints of blood. The turnout was very good however, Mrs. Jones said.

## Regular Physical Tests Pay, Company Doctor Says

Five years' experience in providing regular physical check-ups have cut heart trouble, cancer, digestive ailments and overweight among employees of the General Petroleum Corporation.

This was revealed by Dr. E. P. Luongo, General Petroleum's medical director, in a talk delivered before the American Medical Association Tuesday.

Dr. Luongo told the AMA section on preventive and industrial medicine that in General Petroleum the incidence of disabling and fatal cardiovascular heart disease has decreased 15 percent since 1948.

Mortality from malignancies of internal organs in males has

dropped 33 percent since 1948. Among female employees, the mortality from breast and pelvic malignancies has decreased 50 percent in the same period. Disabling diseases of the digestive tract have dropped 20 percent, and incidence of overweight 40 percent.

General Petroleum, according to Dr. Luongo, has experienced fewer industrial accidents since instituting its program of periodic physical examination. Workmen's compensation costs have been reduced. For example, costs for industrial hernias have dropped 40 percent since 1948, and 33 percent for serious back injuries. "Periodic physical examinations are valuable, beneficial, and profitable to the employee, the employer, to the community at large and to the medical profession," Dr. Luongo stated.

## Polack Bros. Circus Sets NLB Showing

Opal, whose specialties are walking on her front legs and balancing on one front foot, is star of the Besalou Baby Elephants, to be seen with the second annual El Bekal Shrine Polack Bros. Circus, which will attract many residents of this community to the Veterans Memorial Stadium, Carson Ave. and Lakewood Blvd., Long Beach, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, July 12-13. Afternoon and night performances will be given all three days at 2:15 and 8:15.

This year's circus boasts an exciting new international assemblage of aerial, acrobatic and animal talent, plus celebrated clowns and the dancing Spanglettes. Prominent among the new features are Prof. George J. Keller's Jungle Killers and the high-wire hazards of Harold Alzana & Company. Other animal acts include movie chimpanzees, trained pigs, ponies, dogs and horses.



UNIQUE . . . is the word for the "do-it-yourself" barbecue which is being displayed above by shapely actress Vivian Mason. The item is one of the hundreds of novel and unique features to be seen at the second annual Do-It-Yourself show at the Pan-Pacific July 23, through Aug. 1.



(Herald Photo) GETTING ACQUAINTED . . . Two new Herald reporters, Tom Rische and Clay Miller, look over shoulder of Evan Akins as he sets advertising copy on one of the Herald's intricate typesetting machines. Rische and Miller have been added to the Herald staff in an effort to offer top level coverage to the entire Torrance trading area.