

# Gas Heater Fells Young Father, Family Threatened

## YOUNG TOT SEVERELY BURNED AT PARTY

ESTABLISHED 1914

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## Matches Set Fire To Dress

Fighting for her life at Torrance Memorial Hospital today is 2½-year-old Carol Howard, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Earl Howard, of 1011 Middlebrook Rd., who was burned critically at her sister's birthday party Saturday.

Attendants at Torrance Memorial Hospital listed her condition as "improved" this morning, but she still remains critical. The tot was burned during a birthday party for her 12-year-old sister, Kay, when she climbed up in her high chair, got a box of safety matches down out of a high cupboard, and went into the backyard to try to light trash in the incinerator.

Neighbors and members of the family were at a loss to explain how the little tyke was able to light the matches, which must be struck against the box to ignite.

The dress and other clothing of the small girl were destroyed by the flames, which seared her body. Her mother heard her screams and, upon seeing her aflame in the back yard, grabbed a blanket and wrapped it around her, smothering the flames.

A neighbor, Roland F. Grover, of 1923 Middlebrook Rd., rushed the burned girl to Torrance Memorial Hospital.

Neighbors said Mrs. Howard had used the matches a short time before the accident to light the candles on Kay's birthday cake and that little Carol probably saw her mother put them back into the cupboard.

The flames burned the little girl severely about the waist and body, and one hand was burned badly. Her face was not burned.

### WEATHER

Sunny today and tomorrow with occasional high cloudiness. Increasing fog along the coast tonight and early tomorrow. Slightly cooler tomorrow, with a high of 83 today. High yesterday was 86, with a low of 61.

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## Firemen Revive Pair Overcome By Lack of Air

Fumes from an unvented gas heater brought near tragedy to a young father and his 10-month-old daughter, and could have cost the lives of a family of four, early this morning.

George Brandmire, 24, and his daughter, Jeanette, were revived by a rescue crew from the Torrance Fire Department, when they collapsed minutes after leaving their fume-filled apartment and walked to a relative's room down the hall, in an apartment at 2075 Torrance Blvd.

Aroused by the coughing and vomiting of her 2½-year-old son, Mrs. Brandmire called to her husband, and they carried their children to the apartment of Brandmire's mother, who summoned firemen and a doctor.

Firemen Roy Holloman and Dean White said they found the young father sprawled unconscious on the floor, and the infant girl, blue from lack of oxygen, in her grandmother's arms. The small boy apparently suffered no ill effects.

The girl, Jeanette, was revived promptly, but Brandmire was transported to Harbor Hospital by Torrance Ambulance when he responded slowly to treatment by the rescuers.

Mrs. Brandmire said most of the windows in their apartment had been closed tightly, and firemen said the heater apparently burned all of the available air in the room.

## South Torrance Zone OK Delayed by Commission

Final approval of South Torrance zoning was delayed 30 days Wednesday night, when the Torrance Planning Commission requested more time to study proposed changes in the plans.

A number of residents appeared to protest zoning changes in zoning in the area below 242nd St. A petition containing 135 signatures objected to rezoning on Los Codona, Nece, Park, Madison, Hawthorne, Newton, and 244th St., all of which are located below 242nd St.

Commissioners received a second petition with seven signatures, objecting to rezoning of the west side of Ocean Ave. between 242nd St. and Pacific Coast Hwy.

**Action Delayed**  
 Commissioner Beasley at first moved that these areas be removed from the proposed South Torrance rezoning, but later withdrew his motion and supported a move to postpone a decision for 30 days to study the matter.

Committees to study possible annexation of El Nido and Rolling Hills property were appointed by the commission.

E. H. Bledon appeared before the commission, declaring that a majority of the residents of the area wanted to join Torrance.

## Court Hearing Set for Woman On Forgery Rap

Preliminary hearing for a 21-year-old woman held on four felony forgery counts, will be held Wednesday at South Bay Municipal Court.

The woman, Mrs. Barbara Kay Jefferson, has decided to "take whatever punishment the court decides to give her." Detective Captain Ernie Ashton said this morning.

Ashton and Policewoman Regina Ryan picked up Mrs. Jefferson, of 2687 W. Carson St. Her four checks drawn on the Bay L. Toomey Co. of Gardena were returned by the bank. The woman had been employed by Toomey and admittedly signed Toomey's name to the checks.

Notes totaling \$850 were written by Mrs. Jefferson, and cashed at a local market.

The woman also has bills outstanding for \$800 to \$900 at Los Angeles clothing stores, Ashton reported.

Her husband, Thomas E. Jefferson, was unaware of the incident, Ashton said. The couple has a small child.

## Thief Takes Money

Stolen from her purse while she was out working in the yard were \$32 in cash, Mrs. Edward Tiger, of 611 Pine Dr., reported to police. She said someone went in through a back door and took the money from the bag.

## Kiwanians to Hear Talk on Recreation

Recreation Director Harry Van Bollenham will discuss his department's program for Torrance at the Kiwanis Club meeting to night in the American Legion Hall at 9:30.

The Optimists will hold their regular meeting in the DING How Cafe at 7 o'clock tonight.

The Lions Club will hear Joseph Wilken, of the Naval Supply Depot at Los Alamitos, talk at its meeting at noon tomorrow in American Legion Hall.

Elks will hold their regular Wednesday night meeting in Alan-Richards Hall at 8 p.m. Members are still being accepted before the charter is received.

Civitan and Rotary clubs will meet this week, because of Thanksgiving.

Evening Toastmasters will meet tomorrow night in the Fish Shanty at 7 p.m. Mid-Day Toastmasters will meet Friday noon in the Lone Pine Inn.

## Unvented Heaters Definite Fire Hazard, Chief Warns

Fire Chief J. J. Bonner today warned users of unvented open flame space heaters that these heaters are definite fire hazards if not properly used.

With chilly mornings already bringing many of these heaters into use, Chief Bonner urged the public to observe four precautions which will reduce the danger from the use of open-flame heaters not vented to the outside air.

"First," he said, "locate heaters out of the foot traffic paths of the room and away from drapes, chairs, and other combustible materials. Every year people are burned, usually women or children, when clothes accidentally catch fire from open-flame heaters. Never stand

in front of heaters while dressing.

"Use a metal connector to attach the heater to the gas piping," he warned. "Flexible cloth-covered rubber hoses deteriorate and are the cause of fires.

"Third, have the heater checked periodically by the gas company or a competent service agency to be certain that it is in proper working order.

Leave Window Open  
 "And, finally," he said, "keep the room well ventilated. Air is essential to life. Open-flame heaters, the best long-term solution is to replace them with vented heating equipment that carries the products of combustion out of the house through a vent pipe, and has the gas burner completely enclosed to eliminate the fire hazard.

A settlement of the school question was the aim of El Nido residents in asking annexation, he said. There are about 130 homes and two miles of streets in El Nido, he said.

**Two-Week Delay**  
 Further action on two controversial tracts—Ellinwood Tract No. 20772 and Hollywood Riviera Tract No. 18379—was postponed for two weeks, pending study of points at issue.

Conde, William A. Mason told the commission he had met with developer Harry Kissel on the Ellinwood tract, and that Kissel had made no counter-offer on the five acre plot which the City Recreation Department wants to use as a park. Development plans show the area as a housing tract.

Also unsettled, Mason said, was the question of entrances and exits into the tract by some other route than Hollywood Riviera. A tentative agreement was reached to make streets 64 feet wide, rather than 40 feet.

Action on the Hollywood Riviera tract between Palos Verdes Parkway and the ocean was postponed for two weeks. A meeting was held Friday between the Don-Ja-Ran Corp. and the Torrance Unified School District, which wants a school site in the 66-acre area.

**Tract Approved**  
 The commission recommended for approval part of a 59-house development proposed by the Grand Construction Co. of 166th and Ardath Ave. The approval was tentative, providing drainage requirements are met.

A tract north of 152nd, between Fyemith and Crenshaw, proposed by Tony Faravano, was recommended for approval. An adjacent alley was removed from tract, and the commission recommended condemnation proceeding to get land for the alley.

Tract No. 20944, southwest of 166th and Arlington Ave., containing 66 lots, was referred to Committee. It was presented by the Grand Construction Co.

Also referred to committee was Tract No. 20773, northeast of 230th and Ocean Ave., containing 60 lots, proposed by the Don-Ja-Ran Corp.

**Drive-in Action Delayed**  
 Action was postponed for two weeks on the application of Clinton H. Glenn for a drive-in theater on the west corner of 236th and Hawthorne Aye. J. A. Beasley said his committee was not ready to make recommendations on the proposal.

The drive-in would be located in the Walters Lake district City Engineer Ronald Bishop pointed out that construction would reduce the pondage area, and raise the level of the water on surrounding property.

**Hotel to Have Parking**  
 Leo Katz' application for permission to build a 41-room hotel at 218th and Cabrillo Ave. was granted after commissioners approved cross-deeding of the hotel property and an adjacent parking lot.

City requirements are that the hotel furnish one parking space for each two rooms in the hotel. Since enough available parking space was not available on the property, Katz will use property across the alley for parking.

Setbacks on 16 lots in Tract No. 18466 proposed by the G and G Construction Co. were approved by the commission. Side-yard setbacks of seven feet were approved for eight lots in Tract No. 17378.

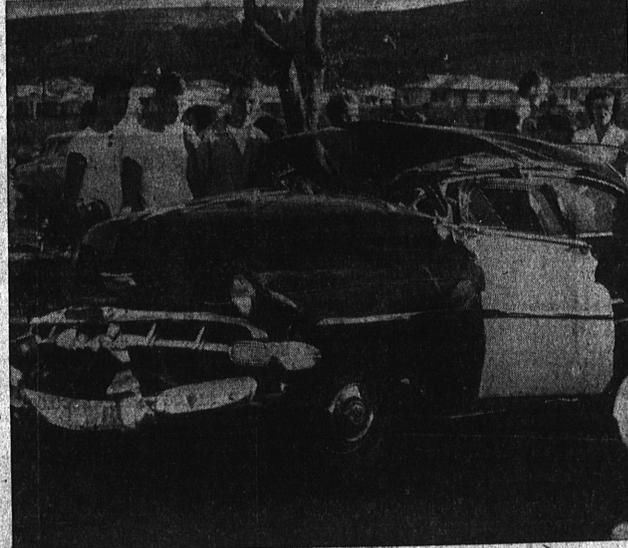
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**CITY TO GET SCHOOL SITE IN RIVIERA**  
 A tentative agreement by which Torrance will get a seven-acre school site in the Hollywood Riviera tract between Palos Verdes Parkway and the ocean was reached Friday.

The Don-Ja-Ran Corp. agreed to let the school district have the land at cost—\$7500 per acre according to School Superintendent J. H. Hull. The site selected will be near the Palos Verdes Apartments.

Attending the meeting were Hull, Comdr. William A. Mason, of the Planning Commission; Norman Stern, attorney for Don-Ja-Ran; and an engineer for the Don-Ja-Ran Corp.



CRUMPLED CAR . . . Traffic Officer Bill Winther was badly shaken up but otherwise escaped serious injury when his police car, chasing two speeders along densely packed Pacific Coast Hwy., was hit by a tow truck. The auto soared into a tree, then overturned and bounded, and over end, 100 feet down the highway. The speeders got away.

## Injured Coach Loses Best Gift

Injured last week when a dynamite cap planted by a prankster went off in his face, Coach Richard Dankworth was deluged with good wishes and gifts, but he didn't get one he would have liked most—a victory by his football team.

Dankworth, who lives at 4322 W. 176th St., learned that his Hamilton High Bees lost to Venice by 35-7. The Venice captain, however, called to assure him that Hamilton was one of the best teams Venice has faced.

Wearing a patch over his left eye, Dankworth got out of the hospital Thursday and planned to return to school today. He was hurt when he picked up a notebook containing a dynamite cap which exploded in his face.

He will require surgery in several months, but doctors have told him that the sight in his eye will be permanently impaired.

Hamilton High held a "Dankworth Day" Thursday, and collected \$400 toward his medical expenses, at ceremonies attended by his wife and mother. His football team presented him a gold watch.

"I never knew I had so many friends," said Dankworth, commenting on the great volume of mail and flowers he has received since the accident.

Many members of his football team have dropped by his house to wish him well.

"It's a good thing the juvenile authorities got hold of the guy who set off that dynamite cap before the football team did," one of them commented.

A coach at Hawthorne High School for two years before coming to Hamilton High this year, Dankworth had great with dynamite caps last year. One of his star players at Hawthorne lost three fingers in an accident involving the dangerous detonators.

Dankworth bears no ill feelings toward the boy who put the caps in the notebook, but noted, "He could have stopped me when he saw me pick up the notebook."

The boy was picked up by juvenile authorities after members of the team told authorities who he was. He has had a long record of trouble in school.

Played At Pepperdine  
 Before an injured knee put him out of action, Dankworth played left half back at Pepperdine, and was described by friends as "a potential All-American." He previously served in the Marines.

He has lived in Torrance about two years with his wife and two young sons.

**Cold Water On Oil Sets House Afire**  
 Water thrown onto a pot of boiling cooking oil exploded, sending burning oil on the curtains and woodwork, at a home at 17109 Patronella Ave., Friday evening.

Firemen said damage was minor. Occupant at the house is Mrs. Lillian Wons. Two engine companies from the Torrance Fire Department responded.

## Officer Escapes Injury in Crash On Busy Highway

A Torrance traffic officer chasing two cars racing along Pacific Coast Hwy's "Murder Mile" escaped possible death or serious injury when his patrol car was hit by a truck, then clipped a tree and somersaulted 100-feet down the road, late Friday.

Officer Bill Winther, who walked from his totally demolished car to the ambulance, was released from the hospital several hours after the spectacular crash. He suffered sprains, bruises and contusions, but otherwise, was unharmed.

Witnesses told Officer Joe Miles that Winther was traveling east on the busy highway when the truck, a tow rig, turned left onto Rolling Hills Rd. and tipped the rear end of the police unit. The impact put Winther's car into a spin.

Driver Cited  
 Driver of the tow truck, George T. Balsey, 59, of 25212 Pennsylvania Ave., Lomita, was cited for failing to yield the right of way when making a left turn. He told police he did not see the police car.

Winther said the cars he was chasing when through the dangerous Newton St. intersection in excess of 80 miles per hour and he was attempting to halt both autos. The speeders kept going after Winther's auto was hit, and careened down the roadway.

Other Accidents  
 Ten-year old Ronald Dryva, of 18405 Elgar Ave., was seriously injured when he was hit by a car while walking across Redondo Beach Blvd. at Yukon St. Saturday afternoon.

The boy apparently was heading to Alondra Park when he was hit by an auto driven by Johnny D. Clinton, 17, of Hawthorne.

California Highway Patrol Officer Al Stratton said the Dryva boy was carrying a sack of coleslaw he apparently had purchased at a grocery across from the park and crossed the busy highway without looking.

He was knocked 45-feet by the impact. Clinton was not held.

## Stores Hit By Bee-Bee Attackers

Attacks by young vandals armed with bee-bee guns were on the increase last week, as downtown merchants reported losses in their expensive plate glass windows.

Victims of the shootings were the Bank of America, a service station at Carson St. and Arlington Ave., and a Marcelina Ave. paint store.

In addition, a Walteria homeowner and several car owners have reported bee-bees were blasted through their windows.

## Lomita Man Shoots Self Through Head

A 30-year-old Lomita man apparently took his life Saturday night or early Sunday morning by shooting himself through the head, sheriff's deputies reported.

Raymond William Wheeler, of 2119 W. 260th St., was found Sunday morning by his father. He lay across a bed, with a .38 blue steel revolver and a box of shells nearby.

The father said he did not know that his son was at home, and could advance no reason for the deed. Sheriff's deputies are investigating, and funeral arrangements are pending.

## Rare Coins, Saving Bonds Taken in Theft

A thief who jimmied open an apartment house door, broke into a strong box and removed several valuable gold coins and six \$25 savings bonds, F. E. Lewis, of 2474 Torrance Blvd., reported to police.

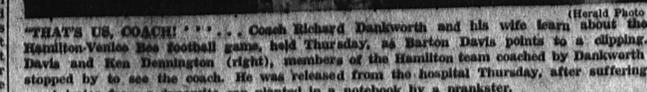
He said he had three \$2.50 gold pieces, and one of the first dollar bills ever issued inside the container.

## Moon Hub Caps Taken

Stolen from his auto during a football game Friday night, were two "moon" hub caps, Ruben Alvarado, of 917 Portola Ave., reported to police.

## Auto Wrecks Hedge

Someone drove his car over his lawn and smashed down the hedge, Larry Robb, of 2823 Alhambra Ave., reported to police.



"THAT'S US, COACH!" . . . Coach Richard Dankworth and his wife learn about the Hamilton-Venice Bee football game, held Thursday, as Barton Davis points to a clipping. Davis and Ken Dennington (right), members of the Hamilton team coached by Dankworth, stopped by to see the coach. He was released from the hospital Thursday, after suffering eye injuries from a dynamite cap planted in a notebook by a prankster.