

# Housewife, Polio Victim, Uses Feet

Most people have enough trouble cooking, keeping house, painting, or dialing a telephone with two hands, but one Torrance housewife does all of these with her feet, and quite easily.

Eighteen-year-old Willie Mae Biecht, of 3772 W. 182nd St., a bride of six months, performs all of the normal housekeeping chores, despite the fact that a childhood polio attack left her without the use of her hands.

**Recovered Slowly**  
Afflicted with polio seven years ago, she was at first immobile from the neck down. After years of hospitalization and treatment, she recovered complete use of her lower limbs. Doctors have told her, however, that there is no hope that she will regain use of her arms.

Mrs. Biecht and her husband, Henry, an electronics man at Northrup Aircraft Co., moved to a north Torrance duplex about six months ago. She cooks, cleans and does other household chores with her feet, although the main duty for which she needs help is washing the dishes.

With a special low-level kitchen, she operates her pushbutton electric range with the toe of her left foot. She's a southpaw.

**Made Up Mind**  
"Before I got married, my mother did most everything for me," she said. "When I got married, I just decided that I would do all these things, and I have." A graduate of Excelsior High school in Norwalk, she got straight As in art work there and had planned to seek a scholarship to Center Art school before her marriage. She started her art work while she was confined to her bed.

Although she has given up her schooling plans since her marriage, she still works with water colors and occasionally whips up a pencil sketch or charcoal drawing.

She even has a special "hands free speakerphone" furnished by the Pacific Telephone Co., which allows her to carry on phone conversations easily. She answers with a push of her toe, talks through a miniature microphone, and hears through a small loudspeaker. She can dial faster with her toe than most people can with their fingers.

## Promotion Given to Valencia on Okinawa

Louis F. Valencia, 21, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jessie F. Valencia of Torrance, recently was promoted to corporal while serving with the Ryukyus Command Transportation Service on Okinawa.

Valencia, a file clerk in Headquarters Detachment of the transportation service, entered the Army in September, 1953. He was stationed at Ford Ord, before arriving on Okinawa in February, 1954.



**TALENTED TOES . . .** Mrs. Willie Mae Biecht shows how she dials the new "speakerphone" in her house with her toes. Since she does not have the use of her arms, Pacific Telephone Co. installed a special phone which can be answered by pushing a button. She talks through a microphone. Phone Representative Jack Clubb observes.

## Marines Will Tell Program

Both regular and reserve Marine Corps programs and military obligations will be explained next week, two representatives who will be at the corner of Sartori Ave. and Post Aves. Monday through Friday, from 9 to 12 noon.

T-Sgt. David Poland, recruiter, will interview prospective

Marine applicants, and will explain the eight-year military obligation to former Marines.

T-Sgt. Raymond Lawrence, representative of the 5th Signal Company, Marine Corps reserve, Terminal Island, will explain military obligations and the reserve program to high school seniors.

**Women's Volleyball On**  
Women in the Walteria Park area are invited to take part in a volleyball program, which has been scheduled every Thursday from 10 a.m. to 12 noon on the grass court of the park.

**FARMING INCOME**  
Farms of the United States contain about 15 per cent of the total population, but they earn only about five per cent of the total U. S. income, according to government reports.

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## Veterans Can Get Help for Service-Connected Ailments

A veteran's illness or disability may "act up" several years after he left military service, and still be considered service-connected, according to Helen K. Dill, director of the Veterans Service Center.

"A service-connected condition," she continued, "may entitle an ex-GI to medical or hospital care and eventually to compensation if the condition becomes severe enough to create a handicap. It may give him the right to apply for special government life insurance."

**Sickness Worsens**  
Mrs. Dill said that an ex-serviceman may notice the worsening of an illness or injury and recall that he experienced the first symptoms while he was in uniform—although he may not have given them a second thought at the time.

"It may be difficult to prove service-connection of an ailment," Mrs. Dill asserted, "if the veteran's military file doesn't show any record of a complaint. But even then, sworn statements of buddies, letters he may have written home, and records of civilian doctors may supply the necessary proof."

**Some Ills Show Up**  
She added that quite a number of conditions are automatically "presumed" to be service-connected if they showed signs within one year after discharge. These include arthritis, heart disease, cancer, high blood pressure, tumors, ulcers and the so-called tropical diseases. In the

case of tuberculosis, symptoms three years after discharge are valid to establish service-connection; for multiple sclerosis and mental diseases the presumptive period is two years.

Ex-servicemen and their families can discuss service-connected disability more fully with Mrs. Dill at the Torrance Area Veterans Service Center, 1622 Gramercy Ave., a Community Chest agency.

## Pet Contest Awards Cited

Winners of blue ribbons last Thursday at Seaside School playground in the Pet Contest were:

Nancy Pipkin, Rick Thomas, Mike Appleby, Carol Dancy, John Benart and Arnold Quinn.

A talent show will be held today as the next in a series of special events on Thursdays at the playground. Children of the neighborhood are urged by recreational leaders to take part.

## Local Man Involved In Del Amo Accident

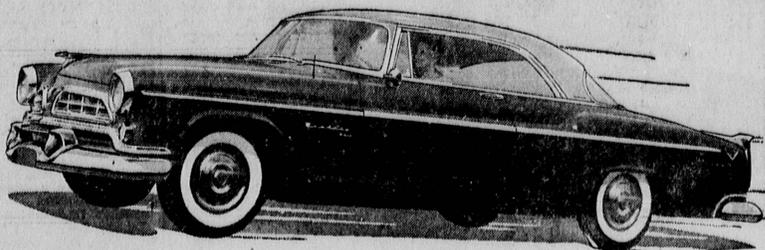
Frank Lopez, 25, of 21826 Ravenna Ave., was involved in a three-car crash which tied up traffic on Del Amo Blvd., just west of the Long Beach Freeway underpass Thursday evening.

The accident occurred when Walter B. Martin, 42, of Wilmington, swerved to avoid hitting two youngsters on a bicycle, and collided with a car driven by Richard E. Wright, 33, of Long Beach.

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## Local Men to Discuss GAW

Representatives of three Torrance firms will attend a regional management conference Thursday to discuss supplemental unemployment insurance programs as a means of accomplishing a guaranteed annual wage.

Reed H. Parkin, of Doak Aircraft Co.; Charles S. Morgan, of Columbia-Geneva Steel Co.; and John D. Spaulding, of the National Supply Co., will attend the 4 p.m. meeting at the Lafayette Hotel in Long Beach.

Roger Davis, attorney for Leeb and Leeb will present the unemployment insurance discussion.

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