

# City Now 71,371, County Reports

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## TORRANCE HERALD

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# LOCAL PAIR KILLED IN AIR CRASH

## State Completing Plans for Seven New Signals Here

### City's Share of Traffic Signals Would Be \$33,000, State Estimates

The California Division of Highways has completed surveys and is now recommending the installation of a series of traffic signals along Hawthorne Ave. as the result of a year-long campaign by mothers in the Meadow Park School area, city officials and the HERALD. District Engineer Edward T. Telford reported Saturday that investigations of traffic conditions at the Hawthorne Blvd. and 230th St. intersection had been

## Television D.A. Has It Too Easy, Ernie Roll Says

The glamor and ease with which his television counterpart solves crime gives a distorted view of the district attorney's office, S. Ernest Roll told members of the Torrance Rotary club at their regular dinner meeting Thursday.

Prosecution of some 12,000 felony cases a year in one of the nation's largest county areas, entails a great deal of drab work on the part of a limited staff, the district attorney asserted. To the more serious offenses are added thousands of misdemeanor and miscellaneous cases in many instances the result of the almost uncontrolled growth of the county.

District Attorney Roll asserted that it was the policy of his office to give respectful and fair treatment to all. He made no secret of the fact, however, that hardened criminals and repeat offenders are given merciless prosecution in a ceaseless war on crime.

The distinguished visitor was introduced by Dr. Robert A. Hoag, program chairman for the club.

completed and the date and recommendations of the local offices reviewed in Sacramento. To control the traffic properly, Telford reported that the installation of traffic control signals was recommended along Hawthorne Ave. at 238th St., 186th St., and 177th St. The signals would be synchronized for the most efficient handling of traffic.

**Yukon Signals**  
In addition to these signals, Telford reported favorably on signals for Pacific Coast Hwy. at Calle Mayor and at 174th St. and Yukon. The latter signal installation had been approved previously but it was included with the others so Torrance could arrange its share of the financing.

**Final Answer Due**  
Telford said he expected a final answer at the Pacific Coast Hwy. project this week. The city's share of the five Hawthorne Ave. signals would be about \$22,000, Telford said. The 174th and Yukon signal will cost the city about \$5500 and the Calle Mayor signal would bring the city's total share to \$33,000. The City Council has approved expenditure of funds for the Yukon signal and has indicated that the city would share costs of the 230th St. signal. No formal action has been taken on the others, at tomorrow evening's meeting, which begins at 5:30 p.m.

Telford said he would be unable to estimate when the installation of the signals could be completed because of the large number of other needed projects for which plan preparation is now under way.

## Boy Struck By Auto Near Home

Three persons, one a 2½-year-old boy, were injured here Wednesday in traffic accidents. The boy, Phillip Nichols, of 4712 Laurette St., was reported to have suffered major injuries when hit by a car near his home.

Police say young Nichols was struck by a car driven by Marilyn Kathleen Biggs, 27 of 22129 Palos Verdes Blvd., shortly before 4 p.m. Wednesday. She was not cited.

Wright's Ambulance rushed the boy to Harbor General Hospital.

Earl L. Stroope, 42, and Rudy L. McTee, 16, both of Lomita, were slightly injured when their cars collided Wednesday evening at Crenshaw Blvd. and Pacific Coast Hwy.

They were treated by private physicians, according to police reports of the accident.

## NEW CLASS SLATED FOR TAPS RECRUITS

Newest class for youngsters wanting to join TAPS, the Torrance Auxiliary Police unit for teen-agers, will start Feb. 8 in the council chambers at city hall at 7:30 p.m.

Youngsters 12 to 16 years of age living in Torrance are eligible to join the group. Six instruction lectures on laws, their interpretation and their meaning to society will be conducted before the new group may join the advanced TAPS group.



WHERE TWO DIED . . . Two Torrance men, Earl W. Strickland, 33, of 22411 Linda Dr., and Thomas A. McNeil, 23, of 3103 Pacific Coast Hwy., are dead following the crash of their single-engine Ercoupe near Los Angeles International

Airport. Strickland was killed in the crash. McNeil succumbed a day later. The light plane, piloted by Strickland, struck a power pole and crashed within 15 feet of the airport.

## City Up 4000 Since Sept. 17

Torrance has added nearly 4000 persons to its population since the Sept. 17 special census conducted here, reports of the County Regional Planning Commission showed Friday. Estimates of the County as of Jan. 1, 1956, show Torrance now has a population of 71,371. Last

Sept. 17 official date of the special census, Torrance was credited with a population of 67,459. At the present rate of growth — about 15,000 a year — Torrance will be at 100,000 by Jan. 1, 1958, and will be the third largest city in the county by 1960, being surpassed only by Los Angeles and Long Beach. Contemplated annexations may accelerate the growth rate and put Torrance in the No. 3 spot prior to that date.

**Adds Emphasis**  
The city's booming growth is adding emphasis daily to its demands for establishment of a Superior Court branch in the city's new civic center. The County has voted to put a Municipal Court on the center and arrangements are now being made to have the Governor include appointment of a third judge to the district in his call for the 1956 session of the State Legislature.

Proponents of the request for establishment of a branch of the Superior Court here point out that Torrance is the largest city in the County without any court facilities and is the geographical center of an area which will soon include more than half a million residents.

The Regional Planning Commission's report showed that an additional 203,681 persons settled in Los Angeles County in 1955, nearly 15,000 of them in Torrance.

The county also gained a new city last week when Baldwin Park voted to incorporate, becoming the County's 47th city, the report notes.

## Knife Wielding Bandit Robs Local Resident

Robert G. Boss, 18, of 101 Via El Chico, told police he was held up at knifepoint early Thursday morning and robbed of his wallet, containing \$15 and identification papers.

Boss said the robbery took place at Pacific Coast Hwy. and Nancy Lee Lane at about 1 a.m. Thursday. Detectives are investigating the report.

## Breakfast to Highlight Industrial Development

H. R. Hudson, prominent industrial realtor of Los Angeles, will discuss "Industrial Development of This Area," at the January breakfast meeting of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce tomorrow morning.

Hudson, a featured speaker at the Industrial Development Conference held in Los Angeles last fall, has been associated with Southland development for more than 25 years.

Special invitations to tomorrow's breakfast meeting have been sent to members of the Torrance-Lomita Board of Realtors according to Chamber President Paul Loranger.

The breakfast will be served by ladies of the American Field Service International Scholarship Group of Torrance.

The meeting begins promptly with the serving of breakfast, and ends at 8:30. Chamber Manager Tom Watson reports. Reservation for the \$1.25

breakfast may still be made by calling the Chamber offices at FA 8-2314.



H. R. HUDSEN

## Airport Employee In Crash

Two Torrance pilots died, one instantly and the other about 12 hours later, when their light plane crashed while approaching Los Angeles International airport to land Thursday night.

The dead have been identified as:

Earl W. "Bud" Strickland, 33, 22411 Linda Dr.  
Thomas A. McNeil, 23, 3103 Pacific Coast Hwy.

Investigating officers said the plane was swinging in low for a landing at International Airport when it clipped a power pole, swung into the lines, then fell less than 15 feet from the chain-link fence bordering the airport. It did not burn.

The plane had left Torrance Municipal Airport a few minutes earlier.

Strickland, believed to be the pilot of the plane, was killed in the crash. McNeil, owner of the plane, died Friday morning at Centinela Hospital in Inglewood.

**Wing Sheared Off**

A wing of the aircraft, sheared off when it hit the power lines, crashed onto the roof of the home of Mr. and Mrs. Barry Giles, 10712 Anza Ave. Giles told officers that the crash of the wing shook the whole house.

The remainder of the Ercoupe which the two were flying landed about 250 yards beyond the pole it first struck.

Strickland was a salesman for McCormick Spices, Inc. and worked part time as a bartender at a cocktail lounge on the airport. He is survived by his widow, Donna Jane; a son, Earl W., Jr., who observed his third birthday Friday; and a daughter, Debra, Lee. Also surviving are his mother, Mrs. Stella May, and a brother, Hartwell Strickland, both of Jacksonville, Fla.; and a brother, Lt. G. E. Strickland of Oceanside.

**Airport Attendant**

McNeil, a gas pit attendant and office clerk at Torrance Municipal Airport for more than two years, was single.

Strickland's funeral services will be held at 3 p.m. today at the Grace Chapel in Inglewood Park Cemetery. Arrangements are being made by Dunaway Funeral Home of Hawthorne.

McNeil's services will be at the Pierce Brothers Inglewood Mortuary at 11 a.m. today.

## Report on White House Education Meeting Slated

"The White House Conference of Education", will be the subject of Vivian Utterson Copeland at a meeting at 8 p.m. Wednesday at Knights of Columbus hall in Redondo Beach sponsored by the local Republicans Unlimited group.

Mrs. Copeland who attended the recent conference as a press representative, will give an accurate account of the conference, according to Clyde S. Haslet of Torrance president of the South Bay group.

## Scout Hurt In Shooting Accident

A 14-year-old Sea Scout may lose three fingers as an aftermath of a shooting accident late Saturday afternoon at the Torrance Police Firing Range, 25851 Crenshaw Blvd.

Larry Deering, 14, of 11226 S. Raymond, was loading a .22 caliber gun when it discharged and the bullet went through three fingers of his left hand. He was on the firing line with a group of Sea Scouts from ship 630S, who were under the supervision of Scoutmaster D. W. Ferguson, of 11107 S. New Hampshire.

Officials at Torrance Emergency Medical, where the boy was taken by Police Officer Bob Walker, said late Saturday they had not determined whether or not he would lose any fingers.



TRIO INJURED . . . Mrs. Ellard Schuett, of 22723 Draille Dr., and her two daughters, Nancy, 21 months and Linda, 8 months, received multiple lacerations and contusions Saturday afternoon at Hawthorne Ave. and Torrance Blvd., when her car, checked here by Officer Don Nash, collided with one driven by B. F. Buchanan, 931 No. Wilmington Ave. All were treated by Dr. Matthew Ellenhorn at Torrance Emergency Medical.



HEART FUND LEADERS . . . Three top ranking leaders who have been named to assist Torrance Chairman J. H. Hull with the February Heart Fund campaign look over material for the drive following an orientation breakfast meeting last Friday. Left to right, are K. D. Figgins, Mrs. Edward Schwartz, and Paul Loranger. Formal appointments are being prepared by Dr. Hull.