# Sneaky Storms Lash Area Again; Streets Flooded By Heavy Rain

The Only Paper Blanketing All Sections of Torrance plus Lomita, Harbor City and Adjacent City and County Areas

TORRANCE All America City AWARD WINNER

# Torrance Herald

SUNDAY and Thursday

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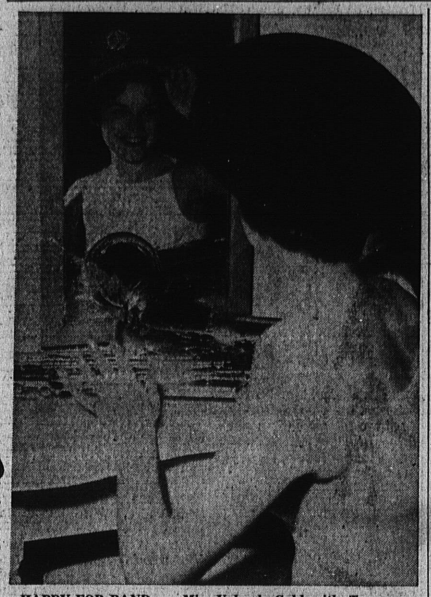


HAPPY FOR BAND . . . Miss Yolanda Goldsmith, Torrance Area Youth Band-sponsored "Miss Torrance" last year, signifies her pleasure at announcement that the band has been invited to the Midwinter Band Festival in Chicago next December.

## DA Auditor Due Here This Week

Audit of the Torrance police bail accounts by a special D.A. investigator was scheduled to be continued this week after a probe of three years turned up 62 missing warrants, 51 of them traced as far as the city's former special warrant officer.

Deputy District Atty. William B. Keene told the HERALD yesterday that Tom Harris head of the D.A. auditing section, had found 51 warrants which could be traced to Jack Gee, but which could not be checked further. Total bail outstanding of the warrants is $1741. Total bail on the missing 62 warrants is $2071, Keene said.

**Haslam Disputed**

Keene disputed statements by Police Chief W. H. Haslam that the investigator had found some discrepancies in the court records.

Haslam told the City Council last week that the investigator was finding a "50-50 deal" on the matter of errors.

The HERALD was unable to contact Harris Friday, but he had been quoted earlier by a metropolitan paper as saying the errors he had found were divided about evenly between the Torrance Police Department and the court.

**Bail Missing**

The investigation was opened Feb. 14 at a hearing before Municipal Judge Otto B. Willett when it was found that bail paid to Gee last year had never reached the court.

City Manager George Stevens reaffirmed earlier statements Friday when he said Gee was definitely no longer connected with the Torrance Police Department. Stevens said Gee did turn in some bail early this week which he had collected previously, but that he had been ordered to surrender all warrants which had been assigned to him.

A complete check of the city's records on the matter is scheduled here this week.

## Couch Blaze Quelled Here

A fire in an overstuffed chair caused considerable damage to the living room of the Jack Williams home, 3219 W. 189th St., early Friday morning, Torrance firemen reported.

When firemen arrived, the chair was burning brightly and the rug was ablaze. A number of clothes left by an ironing board in the living room were destroyed. The house also suffered smoke damage.

The Williams family said they left about 6 a.m., but the the blaze was not reported by neighbors until 7:45 a.m. Damage estimates were not yet complete.

## WHITE PTA PLANS MEET

The first meeting of the PTA at the newly-opened Steven M. White Junior High School, 220th and Figueroa Sts., will be held this Tuesday at 1:30 p.m. at the school.

Mrs. M. Clare, extension chairman of the 10th District PTA, will tell the parents of the process necessary to form a PTA and to select a nominating committee for the group's officers. All parents of White School children are invited.

## Temperatures

| | High | Low |
|---|---|---|
| Sunday | 67 | 51 |
| Monday | 65 | 53 |
| Tuesday | 63 | 53 |
| Wednesday | 67 | 54 |
| Thursday | 67 | 51 |
| Friday | 64 | 53 |

## City Has .87 Inch Of Rain

The weatherman went on the rampage Thursday night in Torrance letting loose a rare production of thunder and lightning and dumping a total of .87 inch rain of the city.

Several street intersections were flooded by the downpour, which ranged from a bare drizzle to brief gusts of rain which nearly obscured vision. The electrical storm lit up the skies brightly, but no damage was reported as a result.

Flooding was reported on the lower section of Paseo de Gracia, Torrance Blvd. and Victor St., Torrance Blvd. and Madrid Ave., Cathryn Ave. and Sharynne Lane, 235th and Pennsylvania, and 174th and Casimir.

As usual, the lower portion of Paseo de Gracia was doused under about five feet of water which was pumped out by the city workers as quickly as possible. Highway maintenance men were called out to battle waters at 174th and Casimir which backed up for about three blocks, due to the speed of the run-off.

The .87 inch total for this week brought the season's total at 7.36 inches, considerably lower than last year's 12.56 inch precipitation.

## Burglars Get $200 in Two Local Raids

Burglars got more than $200 cash in two incursions reported to police on Friday and Saturday.

Mrs. Clara Brobst of 2526 W. 166th St. reported that $140 was taken by a thief who loosened a tension-type screen and entered her home through a window while she was away.

The Torrance Flower Shop at 1400 Cravens Ave. lost about $85 to a burglar who jimmied the rear door.

James R. Scarce of 22310 Avis St. reported that $40 was taken by a thief who entered his home.

## New Building Lags Behind 1956 Record

New construction permits in Torrance continued at a brisk pace during February with a total valuation exceeding one million dollars. The 1957 pace is short of last year's record breaking record.

A total of 383 permits were issued during February, according to Walter Bradford of the city's building department. Of these, the permits for 79 new single family dwellings accounted for the largest share of the valuation.

Permit valuation was $1,724,-744, bringing the 1957 total to $3,630,540.

**Last Year Ahead**

A year ago, the total permits had reached $11,664,587 with a February total of $4,-055,361.

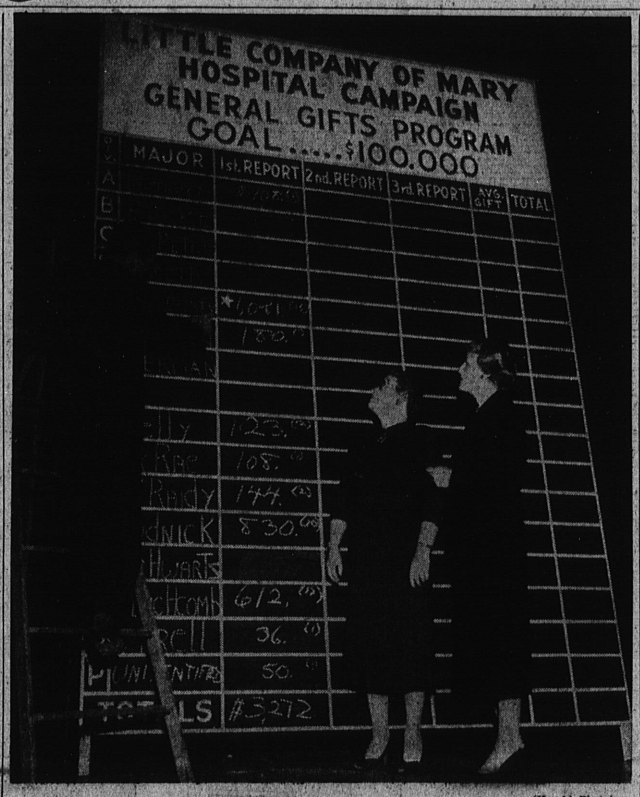
In addition to the 79 dwellings, permits were issued last month for five multiple dwelling units with a total of 25 residential units, seven commercial buildings, and 17 other new buildings including garages, churches, and other non-residential or commercial structures.

Thirty-six permits were issued for alterations to existing dwellings and 18 permits for other alterations. The balance, 221 permits, was for fences and other minor building projects.

**Tracts Started**

Largest home projects started during the month included a 21-home tract near 184th and Dorman in north Torrance by George Steinkamp. Another 33-home tract at Madrona and Avis was started by Dudley Gray, and Wayne Nelson received permits to start an 11-home tract on Fonthill between 168th and 19th Sts.

Permits for the reconversion of the former Pacific Electric Shops into a foil plant for Reynolds Metals should be issued early this month. Plans are now being checked by John Russell, building superintendent for the city. Value of the first permits for this project will be about $500,000 Russell told the HERALD last week.




(Herald Photo)

HOSPITAL REPORT . . . Putting up the latest reports from workers on the Little company of Mary Hospital campaign is James Crain, campaign representative, as Mrs. Leonard J. Young and Mrs. J. A. Tweedy, co-chairman, look on. A total of $3272 was collected during the first day of collections.

## Hospital Campaign Workers Get $3272

The first contingent of local women volunteers soliciting for the general gifts program of the Little Company of Mary Hospital Campaign, undaunted by driving rain and high winds, raised a total of $3272 in their first day of a person-to-person drive in Torrance.

Gathering for their first report meeting Friday morning, they reported a total of 46 individual gifts, for an average of $68.

George W. Post, general gifts director, expressed gratification at the level of giving represented.

**Gifts Praised**

"This average gift is far above any ever received from a general public solicitation in Torrance," he said. "When we consider the adverse weather conditions and the fact that the volunteers have been in the field only one day, the low total is readily understandable. As the drive gathers momentum and with the indicated high level of giving, I have every confidence that the ladies will reach and probably surpass their goal of $100,000. With this kind of average holding up, they might even double this figure."

Mrs. Elaine Tweedy, general gifts co-chairman, was equally enthusiastic.

"We have only scratched the surface of the 20,000 Torrance pledge cards racked in the Old City Hall," she explained. "Under this selective system of personal solicitation, it takes a little longer to do the job, but we are finding that our time is well spent, as evidenced by the fact that most gifts have been $36 or more. I want to thank those women who went out in the bad weather for this good cause. I know that we will go over the top."

**Plaque Planned**

Under the general gifts program, gifts may be made over a period of three years, with memorial or honorary scroll or plaque designations to be placed in the new hospital for each gift of $36 or more.

Women working the Redondo Beach and Palos Verdes areas, who got started a day later than the Torrance solicitors, have report meetings scheduled for next week. Torrance volunteers meet Wednesday morning at Civic Auditorium for their second report meeting, and Friday morning for their third report. All meetings are scheduled for 10 a.m.

## Hawthorne Man Hurt in Mishap

Thomas H. Baker, 42 of Hawthorne suffered a severly cut lip and possible head injuries when his car collided with a truck parked along Hawthorne Ave. near 206th St., according to police.

The mishap took place during a rainy spell Thursday afternoon.

Baker was taken to Harbor General Hospital.

## City Police Captain Sued

Charges that he shared his affection with two other women during the past two years were made against a veteran Torrance police officer in a divorce suit filed in Superior Court Friday.

Named in the suit was Police Capt. Ernest M. Ashton, head of the city's detective bureau. His wife of 33 years, Mariam G. Ashton, charged him with affairs with two other women, one in Torrance and another in Gardena, during the past two years.

## Manager Claims Airport Lessee Violates Pact

A complaint that an operator on the Torrance Municipal Airport was dispensing aviation gasoline to aircraft on the airport from a gas truck in violation of the city's airport management contract was made this week to the Airport Commission by Ed Dietrich, president of Collins-Dietrich, Inc., airport managers.

In a letter addressed to the commission, Dietrich said Vegas Airways, Inc., a lessee on the airport, was dispensing aviation gasoline to aircraft on the airport from a gas truck belonging to Vegas, and that such action is a "direct breach of the terms and conditions of the airport management agreement" betwen the city and Collins-Dietrich.

Dietrich asked the city to take such action as is necessary "or authorize us to take action to stop this conduct by Vegas."

**Opinion Requested**

A request by Atty. Greg Evans, representing Collins-Dietrich, to have the matter referred to the city attorney for a ruling on the terms of the contract concerning petroleum products, was denied. The commission, instead, ordered a copy of Dietrich's letter sent to Vegas Airways with a request that the firm have a representative at the March 14 meeting to discuss the gasoline matter.

Dietrich said the city loses 2 cents a gallon on fuel delivered to the airport other than through the city's facilities.

In the absence of President Jack White, Tom Abrams served as chairman of the meeting.

**Dog Stolen**

A Chinese poodle, valued at $75, was taken from his yard, Earl A. Harrington, 25344 Pennsylvania Ave., Lomita, told sheriff's deputies Thursday.

## Torrance Blvd. Parking Change Given Approval

Parallel parking along Torrance Blvd. east of Cota Ave. was recommended and the future of Carson St. was studied at a meeting of the Torrance Traffic Commission Thursday.

Assistant Police Chief Percy Bennett pointed out that the diagonal parking on Torrance Blvd. east of Cota creates a bottleneck, narrowing traffic from three lanes to two and makes a distinct hazard. Sgt. Joe Miles said that Torrance Blvd. is planned as a six-lane traffic artery.

**Less Parking**

Miles said that although it would cut down the number of parking spaces, where a turnover of cars is needed, parking meters could be installed. Where five cars can be parked parallel, seven cars can be placed at a 35 degree angle, eight cars at a 45 degree angle, and 12 cars at a 90 degree angle, City Engineer Ronald Bishop said. Most angle parking in the city is 35 degrees.

The commission also studied the development of Carson St., including a proposed extension from Madrona Ave. to Hawthorne, and the traffic island in front of Torrance High School.

**Carson Studied**

The possibility of straightening Carson St., where it now circles a block-square park in front of Torrance High School was discussed. Although there was general agreement the street should be straightened, further study was needed, the commission decided, to determine the problems of Torrance High School parking and setting up a coordinated traffic system since five streets come together at that point.

Bishop declared that plans are being made to make Carson St. a 100-foot street and that in some areas, this has been done. The city now is getting the easements to extend Carson from Madrona to Hawthorne, since it now is completed on both sides. He agreed to prepare a master plan of development on the street.

**Signal Asked**

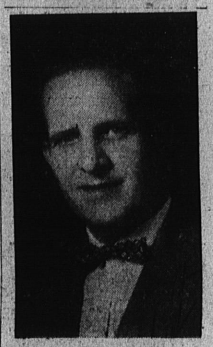
Studying a letter, requesting a signal or four-way stop sign at 166th and Crenshaw Blvd., the commission decided to have the whole stop light problem of the city surveyed.

Sgt. Miles agreed that Crenshaw Blvd. needs traffic-actuated lights to prevent pile-up of traffic. He said he opposed a four-way stop at the 166th intersection because it would create too great a traffic pile-up.

The commission recommended that a survey of signals in the city be made, with a priority list for their installation.

The traffic men voted to ask a representative of the school district to join them in planning for painting yellow crosswalks at school crossings.

A study was made of the Torrance Elementary School crossing at 220th and Arlington Ave. Although it is not located next to the school it is used by many children. It was decided to make a study of various crossings to determine traffic needs.



DR. JOSEPH P. BAY
. . . Named Rotary President

## Dr. Joseph Bay To Head Rotary

Dr. Joseph P. Bay, optometrist and native of Torrance, was elected president of the Torrance Rotary Club at its regular meeting Thursday night. He will succeed Dr. Raymond C. Larsen on July 1.

Chosen to serve with Dr. bay were Jack Schmidt, Pacific Smelting Co., vice president; Fred King, General Petroleum Corp., secretary, and Leonard Ensminger, administrator of Torrance Memorial Hospital, treasurer.

The new Rotary president, the first native of Torrance to hold that job, is a former member of the board of education here and presently is moderator of the Torrance Educational Advisory Committee. He received his elementary and high school training here, and attended Cal Poly and the Los Angeles College of Optometry.

During World War II he served five years in the U.S. Navy as a chief pharmacists mate. He was assigned to the Marine Air Corps in the Pacific Theater during the Pacific campaign.

Dr. Bay and his wife, Nadine, live in San Pedro. They have two sons, Alan, 4, and Steven, 2.

## NEWS BRIEFS

Parents of juniors at North High, Torrance, will discuss the future of their sons and daughters with school personnel Tuesday.

The group conference has been set for 7:30 p.m. in the school cafetorium, it was announced today.

* * *

Torrance Toastmasters Club 695 will elect new officers at a Tuesday night meeting, starting at 6:30 p.m. at the Fish Shanty. Retiring president is Dr. Warren Low.

* * *

Ulma Doyle Register, M.D., M.S., Ph.D., will present a talk, "Proteins in Our Adequate Diet," Wednesday evening, March 6, at the Torrance Civic Auditorium at 7:30 p.m.

* * *

Motion pictures of activities in Los Angeles harbor will be exhibited and a short address on the harbor and its great value to the Southland, will be features of the regular meeting of the Shoestring Advisory Committee next Tuesday.

* * *

Hungarians in the Torrance vicinity who wish to learn English may enroll in a special class to be held at Torrance Evening High School, Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6:30 to 9 p.m., beginning Tuesday, March 5.