

Herald Weekender

Containing Stories from Sunday's Herald

(The following stories are reprinted in part from the Sunday, May 19, Torrance HERALD. These represent only part of the complete news, sports, and society sections which give HERALD subscribers complete, up-to-the-minute review of Torrance news. To receive this news first, call the Circulation Manager at FA 8-4000 and ask for twice-a-week delivery of your local paper, The HERALD.)

Viet-Nam Party Visit Refinery

President Ngo Dinh Diem of the Republic of Viet-Nam heard Manager A. E. Thompson explain the workings of the Torrance refinery and then took a firsthand look at the operation of the huge General Petroleum plant here yesterday during a state visit to the Los Angeles area.

Arriving at the refinery with a party of American and Vietnamese officials, President Diem was greeted by Thompson who outlined the refinery process. The Vietnamese leader was accompanied by President Robert L. Minkler of General Petroleum.

Adelines Elect

Miss Winone Tait of Torrance has been elected president of the Long Beach Sweet Adelines, a choral group. She and the other officers were installed Friday evening.

Airport Studied

An indication that the city of Torrance may be considering taking over Torrance airport was revealed Friday when job descriptions of the airport engineers, airport superintendent and director of aviation were put on the Tuesday City Council agenda.

Gas Tank Explodes

A match apparently ignited gasoline from a leaky tank causing an explosion and some fire damage at 3418 Redondo Beach Blvd., Thursday, Torrance firemen reported.

Tax Issue Approved

Voters throughout the El Camino College district gave their overwhelming approval of the continuance of the 20-cent tax to provide funds for the building program while Torrance voters returned incumbent Jack N. Dabbs to office as a college trustee unopposed.

Mark McIlvaine Dies Suddenly, Services Today

Masonic funeral services for Mark Kitchen McIlvaine, 52, Torrance resident and prominent civic leader for nearly 30 years, will be held at the Stone and Myers Mortuary Chapel at 2 p.m. today. He died suddenly Saturday night, apparently from a heart attack.

A native of Omaha, Neb., Mr. McIlvaine had lived in Torrance for 28 years. He was employed by Chansler-Western Oil Development Corp. (formerly CCMO). He was a test engineer in the gas engineering department for the firm and had been with them more than 25 years.

He was a past president of the Southern California Meter Assn. and a member of the Past Committee of the California National Gasoline Assn. He also was an active member of the Torrance Kiwanis Club and had a perfect attendance pin for nine years.

Members of the Kiwanis Club will attend today's services and three of his close friends in the club will serve as pallbearers.

Mr. McIlvaine is survived by his widow, Rose; a son, Jerry and his wife, Vaughn; a stepdaughter, Jean Kasten; a brother, John of Manhattan Beach; and four sisters.

Masonic services will be conducted by Lodge 447 of Torrance. Burial will be in Green Hills Cemetery.

Former Torrance Star Playing Army Baseball On Squad in Germany

Former Torrance High and El Camino athlete Pvt. James T. Nady is currently playing baseball in Germany with the 10th Division Artillery team.

Nady is a gunner in the artillery's Headquarters Battery, entered the Army in May, 1956, and arrived in Europe in November of that year.

The son of Mrs. Rose Nady, 710 Madrid Ave., Nady played at both schools and is a member of Sigma Phi Kappa at El Camino.

El Nido Zone Study

The long-discussed rezoning of El Nido will come up for a second hearing at the next regular meeting of the Torrance Planning Commission on June 5, as plans for the action were discussed at a Wednesday night hearing.

High School Looted

Burglars who broke into the Narbonne High School shop Thursday used the tools they stole there to break into the school business office, where they obtained \$900 cash and \$600 in checks.

Traffic Victim Dies

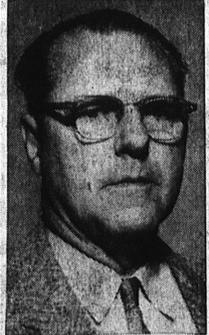
Patrick Des Georges, 69, 2020 Lomita Blvd., Lomita, died in Harbor General Hospital yesterday following injuries suffered when he was hit by an automobile at 208th St. and Main St. at 1:57 a.m. yesterday. The driver of the car, Bill Davis Thorne, Gardena, was not held.

Okada New President

Tom Okada was elected Associated Student Body president of North High School for the fall semester of 1957. Assisting him as vice president will be Leila Santer.

Aspirin Kills Tot

The 3-year-old daughter of a north Torrance couple died at Harbor General Hospital Friday after gulping down an estimated 100 grains of aspirin, according to Torrance police.



ALBERT Z. ENGLAND ... Legion Commander

Legion Picks A. Z. England Commander

Albert Z. England was elected commander of the Bert S. Crossland Post No. 170, American Legion Tuesday night. He succeeds Blaine Staker.

He and other new officers will be installed in a joint ceremony to be held with the Legion Auxiliary late next month.

Other new officers of the post include Jim Baudin, first vice commander; E. K. Walker, second vice commander; Vern Babcock, financial officer; Bud Youngken, historian; Bill Dickson, sergeant-at-arms; Jerry Sul, assistant sergeant-at-arms; C. J. "Paddy" Ryan, chaplain; and Bob Faren, service officer.

A member of the Legion since 1945, England was an original member of the San Pedro Post No. 65 and a member of the Marine Post No. 420 for 10 years, where he served as adjutant, first vice commander, commander and service officer.

He lives at 2756 Gramercy Ave. and is a real estate salesman with Vaughn Real Estate.

PHONE CABLES

An average telephone central office requires as much as 150,000 feet of cable and each cable in turn may contain from six to 312 units to provide for lines.

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Torrance Herald

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TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, MAY 23, 1957

Nineteen

Arsonists, Be Careful! Hatcher May Be Watching

By TOM RISCHÉ
HERALD STAFF WRITER

Firebugs in Los Angeles County had better watch out because a firebug of another type may be watching them.

The other kind of firebug is Sgt. E. B. Hatcher of the Sheriff's Arson Squad, who has been attending fires for 45 of his 51 years, the last 15 of which as a member of the anti-firebug detail of the sheriff's office.

The veteran firebug-fighter spoke Tuesday noon at a meeting of the Torrance Lions Club, describing some of his career which includes attending thousands of fires in the past few years.

Fire Knowledge
What Hatcher and the members of the Sheriff's Arson Squad know about fires would make a prospective arsonist think twice before setting a fire.

For instance:
When they arrive at the scene of the fire, they can tell what was in the building, down to the last stick of furniture and picture on the wall.

They can tell where the fire started, what started it, and in most cases, the type of individual who started it.

They can reconstruct the circumstances of a fire and, in cases of arson, determine the probable motive, if any.

They can work for several years before bringing a suspect to justice, but they don't forget old cases of arson. The work of the arson squad deals not only with determining the causes of fires and bringing firebugs to justice, but with determining cases of insurance fraud in connection with the blazes.

Malibu Fires
Hatcher and the Arson Squad investigated the gigantic fires in the Malibu Hills last year and the one which blacked the Palos Verdes Hills at the same time.

Of three separate fires in the Malibu area, Hatcher said investigation showed that two were accidental and the third is almost certainly arson. One was started by a careless smoker, the second by a car backfire, and the third by a firebug. Officers haven't nabbed the arsonist yet, but they know what type of individual they are seeking.

The fire in the Palos Verdes Hills, which occurred at the same time, started in a lover's lane when someone in a car dumped an ashtray, he said.

Weather "Right"
Despite the seeming coincidence, fires are very likely to occur during spells of weather when the humidity is below

Realtor Angry Enough to Fire If He Had Gun

Realtor Joe Burton is almost made enough to shoot someone—if he had a gun. But he doesn't, and that's why he's mad.

Burton, who lives at 2468 Torrance Blvd., reported this week that someone had entered his house while he was away for a short time and taken a valuable Frontier model pistol—a gun that he had owned for 30 years.

"That was a good gun, as good as new," Burton said. "I had carried it on hunting trips throughout the west for more than half of my life."

He told police that someone had entered the house and apparently gone straight for the valuable gun without taking anything else.

He described it as an old time western gun with the word "Frontier" carved into the 8-inch barrel. He's promised not to use it on the culprit if the gun is quietly dropped off at the house "or somewhere where I can get it back."



(Herald Photo)
SGT. E. B. HATCHER ... Firebug Chaser

15 and the temperature is below 80. This phenomena, known as "Red" weather, is a period when conditions are exactly right for a fire. These were the conditions that existed at the time of the Malibu and Palos Verdes fires, he said.

During some types of weather, any spark in grass or weeds, will start a fire, he explained, while such fires are hard to set at other times.

Leading Causes
According to Hatcher, the four leading causes of fire deliberately set are:

1. Spite or revenge. The arsonist wants to get even with somebody he feels has wronged him.

2. Children playing with matches. Youngsters go through a "fire age" from two to five when they are fascinated by matches and flames. With proper training, they will grow out of this stage, but if it is ignored, a potential pyromaniac is developing.

3. Fraud. A merchant may decide to get rid of stock that doesn't sell, or goods for which he is deeply in debt, to collect the insurance money. He may set fire, to break his lease. A citizen may want to get insurance money for burned belongings.

4. Pyromaniacs. These fall into two categories—the true pyromaniac who sets fires because he has an inner compulsion to do so and the sexual pyromaniac who gets a perverted sexual thrill from watching fires.

Men Lead List
The overwhelming majority of firebugs are men and the vast majority of them sexual deviates of some type. These include men from all walks of life, married, single, and homosexual. Many firebugs get a real sexual thrill either from setting off the alarm or from watching the smoke and flames.

For some reason, most female pyromaniacs are alcoholics, Hatcher declared. A few true pyromaniacs have an inner drive to set fires, just as kleptomaniacs feel they must steal things, even if they don't need them.

"Glow Worm" in Action
Hatcher cited one case of a man known to officers as "The Glow Worm" who set more than 200 fires over a period of 20 years. Despite Hatcher's warning to prison officers to keep "The Glow Worm" away from any job which might allow him to set a fire, he was assigned to a jute mill, which had five blazes the first week after he arrived. The man now spends his time pulverizing a huge granite boulder.

"Everyone has a basic fire instinct," Hatcher declared. "Man has been closely associated with fire since the dawn of history. Fire is a source of light and heat. There have been fire worshipping religions. Today, everybody likes to sit by his fireplace or camp fire. There is a fascination there, but in pyromaniacs, it's distorted."

Many Facets
There are many facets to

arson investigation outside of the realm of the average man's consideration. For instance, several years ago, appliance dealers were informed that they had to pay the bills on unsold appliances within one month.

"We expected a number of fires in storerooms of appliance dealers during that period. We had them," Hatcher said.

One of the latest "fads" in arson is setting fire to a business to break the lease, he declared. Many long-term leases carry the provision that the building must be replaced within 90 days if destroyed by fire. Otherwise, the lease would be invalid.

Study Fragments
Modern arson investigating methods enable investigators to determine the contents of a burned room, including the minute remains of materials which may have been used to set the fire.

"Nothing is ever completely destroyed," Hatcher said. "Years of experience have taught me things about fires that would mean nothing to the average person."

Hatcher, one of eight men in Southern California to qualify as an expert court witness on fire causes, can determine the number of pairs of shoes in a completely destroyed closet—by counting the nails in the heels. He can determine the approximate value of a suit of clothes—by an expert knowledge of the way that different kinds of materials burn under given conditions. He can do the same with furniture.

Teaches Class
An instructor in arson at the University of Southern California and UCLA, Hatcher various aspects of the problems. He spends some of his evenings burning various materials in his fireplace at home to test their reactions under various conditions.

Another Crime
Hatcher feels that a good arson investigator needs extensive knowledge of burglaries, homicide, and sex crimes. Fires often are set, he said, to cover another crime. Arson investigation is really a study of a related type of crime, he pointed out.

Since he went to work, Hatcher hasn't missed a major fire in Southern California, although he wasn't always investigating officially. He feels that at every fire he learned something about the way fires burn. A brief study of charred fragments often determine what causes fires just as a good mechanic can listen to an engine to determine what's wrong with it or a doctor can diagnose an illness by looking at his patient. Like them, Hatcher is trained also to probe deeper to find out what's wrong.



OPENING STATION ... Walter "Walt" Turner, who lives at 20026 Donora, is holding a grand opening at his new Mobilgas station at 230th and Hawthorne Ave. this week end. He is a veteran of 20 years on the oil business, seven with Mobilgas. Gordon Jones will be assistant manager.

Headliners Slated for Sing

Four headliners have been scheduled for appearance Friday night at the weekly Harbor City-Lomita Community Sing at the Harbor City Elementary School, 254th and President Ave.

singing, dancing, baton twirling and piano.

Nancy Olson, young accordionist, who appears at many of the Community Sings, will play.

Pat McWhorter and friend of Wilmington will do their popular hula dance.

Doris Maloon of Inglewood, Western novelty act and fancy



NEW HOSPITAL HEADQUARTERS ... Getting ready to go on their rounds after a visit to the new Little Company of Mary Hospital drive headquarters at 1526 Cravens Ave. are Mrs. J. A. Tweedy, chairman, and Mmes. V. C. Tyrrell, M. L. Rudnick, F. J. Kelly, V. K. Hebson, Donald Hauser, and R. L. Stinchcomb. Drive officials plan to keep the headquarters open until hospital construction starts, about Labor Day.



READY FOR CONCERT ... Director Louis Palange and Soloist Edmond Burr go over the part they will have in the Beach Cities Symphony Orchestra concert tomorrow night when Hadyn's Concerto for Trumpet will be featured along with Dvorak's New World Symphony.



SCHOLARSHIP CHECKS ... Part of the charity funds raised by Torrance teachers were presented in the form of scholarship checks Tuesday. Teachers' President Cletus Nestlerode presents a \$650 check for the American Field Service to Mrs. J. B. Moseley as June Nakawatase and Mary Yoshioka receive \$600 checks from Assistant Superintendent and Mrs. May Dalton. The two \$600 scholarships are for students who plan to enter teaching.