

# Torrance Herald

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OFFICE AND PLANT AT 1619 GRAMERCY AVE., TORRANCE

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# CAPTURE TWO TEENAGE BURGLARS

## \$3000 in Loot Taken by Boys

Two teenage boys arrested while burglarizing a Lomita home Tuesday afternoon had admitted their part in nine burglaries and the "Boy Scout" armed robbery in Torrance, which netted them some \$3000 in cash and assorted loot, according to Torrance Police Lt. D. C. Cook.

At each of the homes they burglarized, the youths left a calling card—the Ace of Spades. They got the idea, they said, from watching westerns on television. The boys, 15, and 16 years old respectively, implicated three other boys 12 to 16, who they said took part in some burglaries.

At the homes of the boys, officers found 10 revolvers, seven knives, and an assortment of watches, keys, jewelry, money, and other valuables.

### Hock Goods

The boys said they had planned to hock the goods they stole at Long Beach pawn shops, but had not done so yet. They had spent some of the money they obtained, they told officers.

The boys also admitted that they were the two youths in Scout uniforms who held up Mr. and Mrs. Robert Anthony Emma, 1319 Maple Ave., in the parking lot of a highway restaurant Nov. 15, and fired a shot at George Monroe Baker as he attempted to pursue them. They obtained \$50 from the Emmas.

The boys said they decided to give up other armed robberies because one of them was frightened when he fired the shot.

### Others Implicated

The boys also admitted burglarizing nine homes in company with three other youths in some of the offenses. Most of the burglaries were in the Waleria and north Torrance areas.

They said that they knocked on the doors of apparently vacant houses to see if anybody was home. If someone answered the door, they said

they were selling magazines. If no one answered, they proceeded to break into the house. Most of the offenses occurred in the late afternoon, after school.

They were tripped up Tuesday afternoon by the watchfulness of a neighbor who noted the boys at the Caroline Steinbach home, 2118 W. 253rd Pl., Lomita, and called Mrs. Steinbach's father-in-law, Lewis Steinbach.

### Boys Cornered

Steinbach got a rifle and seeing the boys inside, ordered them out of the house. The boys fled out the front door and Steinbach shouted to a nearby bulldozer operator to stop them, which he did. When apprehended, each was carrying a loaded revolver and were carrying a bag with assorted loot obtained from a previous burglary the same day.

They had taken a bus to Lomita. Steinbach called sheriff's deputies, who turned the boys over to Torrance Police Officers Leo Gonzales, Walter Nitz, and Don Hamilton. These three men rounded up the other culprits and the loot and obtained statements from the boys, who will be handled in Juvenile Court.

### Good Students

Officers said the boys were good students at local high schools and "not of the type you would expect to be involved in something of this kind."

The boys could give no particular reason for the crimes, the officers said.



'ACE OF SPADES' BURGLARIES . . . Torrance Police Officers Don Hamilton, Leo Gonzales, and Wally Nitz look over some of the \$3000 worth of loot obtained Tuesday from two teen-age burglars were nabbed in Lomita. The collection includes guns, knives, flashlights, money, jewelry, watches, a golf bag, and an assortment of other things. Nitz holds up an ace of spades. The boys left one of these cards at each burglary, an idea they got from watching TV. (Herald Photo)

## City Population Reaches 93,369

The stork has given Torrance an airborne shove into the No. 5 spot in size among cities in Los Angeles County. That was the word from City Manager George Stevens, who revealed that preliminary figures in the recent city census shows that 93,369 persons now live here. That is a net gain of 11,128 people during the past year.

### Officials Surprised

The results surprised even city officials, who had thought it would show about 92,000 people, with 93,000 at the outside. Final figures, following an audit of the books in Washington, will be released in January. They are expected to be somewhat higher than the preliminary figure because it does not include persons who sent in "missed persons" forms.

City officials reported that the figures seem to indicate that the size of the family is increasing, with about one more child for each five houses than was recorded at the last census. One census taker, who had been active in 18 censuses in many areas declared that she had never seen so many small children and children on the way.

### In Fifth Place

The new figures placed Torrance ahead of Burbank, 91,400; San Bernardino, 88,700; and Santa Monica, 82,700. It trails only Los Angeles, Long Beach, Pasadena, and Glendale.

With the rate of growth during the past year, observers felt certain that Torrance would pass the 100,000 mark in the next year.

The population of Torrance in 1946 was about 12,000 and at the 1950 census was 22,000. Three years ago, in 1954, it was 44,000, less than half of the figure recorded this year.

## Five Injured In Accidents, Including Cop

Five persons were injured in automobile accidents this week . . . including a Torrance police officer.

Motor Officer A. L. Jackson is in Torrance Memorial Hospital today with multiple fractures of the left leg.

Jackson, 32, of 23308 Eshelman Ave., took out after a traffic violator Monday at Hawthorne Ave. and Torrance Blvd. As he was crossing the street, a truck driven by Ralph Vincent Benson, 36, of Long Beach, collided with the motorcycle.

### Others Injured

Others injured in accidents include two drivers who collided at Calle Mayor and Palos Verdes Blvd., Monday. Zella Jean Raphael, 25, of 520 Paseo De Los Reyes, and Edward Eodochim Axenty, 56, of Redondo Beach, both sought medical aid from their own doctors.

Two persons were injured when cars crashed at Lomita Blvd. and Hawthorne Ave.

### Cars Collide

Laura May Pond, 60, of 2501 1/2 S. Western Ave. told police she was traveling east on Lomita after making a left turn from Hawthorne. A northbound auto on Hawthorne, driven by Kathleen Stockton, 36, of 21610 Reynolds Dr., was the second car involved in the collision.

Passengers injured were Susie Rose, 60, of 2131 W. 233rd St. and five-year-old Jeffrey Stockton.

## Garrabrant to Fill School Job

Darwin D. Parrish resigned Tuesday night as member of the Torrance Board of Education and Walter A. Garrabrant was appointed to succeed him. A member of the board for the past five years, Parrish said he was resigning due to "the increasing pressure of my business. I feel it is time for me to step aside and permit some other citizen whom the board might select and who could be free to give the necessary time to these important responsibilities, to serve," he said.

### Garrabrant Named

After accepting Parrish's resignation, the Board appointed Garrabrant, a building contractor, to fill the vacancy. A resident of Torrance for the past 10 years, Garrabrant was an unsuccessful candidate for the Torrance City Council in 1956, losing out by 20 votes in a contested election.

Active in civic affairs, he has served as community chairman for the Red Cross and is a past president of the Redondo Beach Rotary Club and the Hollywood Riviera Homeowners' Assn. He also is a past president of the Building Contractors Assn. of California, Bay Area Chapter and is now serving on the board of directors of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce.

He spent 30 years in general contracting work and formerly ran his own advertising agency. Married and the father of three grown daughters, he lives with his wife at 305 Camino de las Colinas. Parrish was re-elected to the



WALTER GARRABRANT . . . Named to Post

board in May, 1956, for a four-year term. Garrabrant will fill out the rest of this term, expiring in May, 1960.

The board wrote a letter to Parrish, thanking him for his service.

### Firemen Rescue Boy Locked in Bathroom

Torrance firemen came to the rescue Tuesday of the three-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. C. S. Highsmith, 110 Via Buena Ventura, who locked himself in the bathroom of the house.

Answering a call from his frantic mother, the firefighters put a ladder to the window and rescued the tot.

## Report on County Expenditures Given

A breakdown of funds collected and spent by the county in the six cities commonly grouped as the "South Bay Cities" was provided yesterday by Supervisor Burton W. Chace in response to a recent letter from Hermosa Beach Councilman Alfred E. Neumann.

"I, too, am provoked by the alarming increase in our county tax bills this year, and I intend to do something about them," Chace wrote.

Tax increases in the six cities totaled \$2,677,944 for both secured and unsecured property, Chace reported. He said 65 per cent of the increase represents increased levy on valuations that did not exist in 1956-57, including new improvements, defense plant inventories, and assessments on public utilities.

Defense plant inventories provided the largest base for increases, going up by \$1,141,537, according to the figures compiled by Chace.

Increases in expenditures for the six cities totaled \$1,196,540, he said. These included \$268,160 for capital improvements, \$40,000 for life-guard maintenance, \$750,000 for charities, \$123,000 for law enforcement, and \$15,190 for operations of the Torrance Health Center.

The increase of \$268,160 for capital improvements, largest increase except for charities, included \$143,773 for the new Torrance court building, \$5819 for the South Bay court, \$3755 for the Torrance Health Center, \$30,000 for a Torrance probation department building (land acquisition only this year), \$54,700 for Animal Shelter No. 3, \$1080 for El Porto Beach, and \$29,033 for Redondo County Beach.

Not included in the report were expenditures for golf

### Rivets Reports

There should be variable high cloudiness today and slightly cooler temperatures, according to The HERALD weatherdog, Rivets. This, he noted, should block off any possible view of the American satellite, which is probably too small to see anyway.

High and low temperatures this week included Sunday (76-42); Monday (79-43); Tuesday (80-39); and Wednesday (78-49).



## Santa to Visit Downtown Area

Santa Claus has just announced his schedule for the week starting Monday, Dec. 9, through Friday, Dec. 13.

He will be on duty each of the five days from 9 a.m. 'til Noon and from 1 'til 6 p.m. at the following locations.

Monday—Will tour downtown streets.

Tuesday—On float near Torrance Hardware at 1513-1514 Cabrillo.

Wednesday—On float near Gay Shop, 1319 Sartori.

Thursday—On float near McCown's Drug, 1327 El Prado.

Friday—On float near Bank of America, 1255 Sartori.

Santa will pass out "goodies."

## Final Plans Ordered for Local Court

Final plans for Torrance's new municipal court building should be presented to the board of supervisors for final approval and advertising of bids by Jan. 15 and the construction contract awarded by Feb. 15, according to a schedule outlined yesterday by Supervisor Burton W. Chace.

The plans were given to the supervisors this week who sent them on to the engineering department for final details, Chace said.

The new court will be constructed on the city's civic center adjacent to the police station. A temporary court will be established in the old city hall on Cravens Ave. in the next few weeks.

## Supervisors Name Chace As Chairman

At its annual reorganization meeting, the Board of Supervisors Tuesday unanimously elected Supervisor Burton W. Chace as its new chairman.

Nominating Chace, retiring Chairman John Anson Ford pointed out, "His long record of public service aptly qualifies him for this important duty."

Chace had served previously for a year term as chairman of the board, and prior to becoming a member of the board of supervisors, for six years was mayor of the city of Long Beach.

Accepting appointment, Chace said, "The confidence

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THIS IS BAD? . . . Torrance Police Motor Officer A. L. Jackson, who is back in the hospital again with another broken leg, has his fevered brow soothed by pretty Nurse Barbara Thompson. Jackson was hospitalized two years ago when a drunk driver ran into him. Last Monday, Jackson was again involved in an accident. In between times, he failed to negotiate a turn, and was thrown off his cycle and landed on his head, but was not hurt. (Herald Photo)

## 'Hardluck' Officer Jackson Breaks Leg in Three Places

A. L. "Hardluck" Jackson was back in Torrance Memorial Hospital today, once again the victim of a traffic accident.

The local police motor officer was hospitalized with multiple leg fractures Monday after he was hit by a truck. Jackson was in pursuit of a

traffic violator when the accident occurred.

Back in July 1955, the officer landed in the hospital for the first time. While arresting a drunk driver, he was side-swiped by another drunk driver. Jackson hobbled around on crutches for months—victim of a broken leg.

The accident-prone officer

had still another accident several months ago. He failed to negotiate a curve on Del Amo and flew off his motorcycle, landing on his head. He wasn't hurt.

Recently marking his seventh year with the local police department, Jackson is active in youth activities and has helped organize car clubs.

## A Penny for your Thoughts

After thumbing through his empty pocketbook, the HERALD's inquiring photographer posed this query: "What, or who, in your opinion, is chiefly responsible for the high tax bills most of us got in the mail recently?"

Mrs. Dorothy Tunis, 412 Via Pasqual, housewife:

"I heard a commentator saying that although lots of people blame the assessor, it is actually the taxpayers' fault. They haven't been careful in choosing their officials and in voting for bond issues. That sounds pretty reasonable to me."

R. C. Williams, 1751 Marinette, garage owner:

"I don't really know who is responsible. Inflation is taking so much money. Everybody is getting more than they're worth, but it costs more to live than it used to. About all I can do is pay the bill when it comes."

Mrs. C. Mata, 22978 Cabrillo Ave., housewife:

"In my opinion, the assessor, Quinn, is responsible. If more people got together beforehand and showed more interest, they could prevent some of the expenditures. Too many people say, 'Let the other guy do it.'"

Ray Tibbin, 21617 Linda Dr., millwright:

"It isn't who that's responsible. It's just lack of thinking. I got 12 1/2 cents an hour when I started work. I get \$3.50 now. Everything costs more than it used to. You've got to pass school bonds to get off double sessions and park bonds to get parks for the children. There may be some duplication of services, however."

Mrs. Pat Smith, 28015 Crest Rd., homemaker:

"The people responsible are the people of the country who are not making decisions. At home, we set up a budget and choose because we can't have everything. People think the government is a Santa Claus that can give them everything for nothing. It can't."

William A. "Alec" Lewis, 720 Border Ave., steelworker:

"Too many people have come to California and Torrance. The more people that come, the higher the taxes. Although it doesn't seem like it, the people need of everything—schools, and other things."