

Torrance Herald

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\$10,000 DONATED TO HOSPITAL



FOR THE HOSPITAL . . . Henry W. Creeger (left), president of the Torrance Memorial Hospital board, accepts a check for \$10,000 from Cecil Clarke of the Torrance plant of North American Aviation. The check was the contribution of North American's "Donate Once" Club, an organization of employees. (Herald Photo)

Hospital Given \$10,000 Check

North American Aviation's "DO-Club," through which employees contribute to worthy causes, this week presented a check for \$10,000 to the Jared Sidney Torrance Memorial Hospital.

Presenting the check was Cecil Clarke of the firm's Torrance facility, while Henry W. Creeger, president of the hospital's board of directors and chairman of the fund campaign organization, received the donation.

The money will be used for the acquisition of clinical laboratory and x-ray equipment, Creeger announced. The "Donate Once" organization's total gifts to Southern California hospitals were raised to \$95,000 by the contribution, Clarke said. He pointed out that about 70 per cent of North American's employees are "DO-Club" members.

He Hasn't Got A Floor Left To Stand On

Torrance police today were shaking their heads in amazement about a burglar who carted off a strange cargo.

Alvin Alexander Decker, 18931 Felbar Ave., reported to local officers that his home had been burglarized Friday.

He told police someone had entered the house and removed the tile flooring of his shower.

Not another thing was missing, Decker said. The rest of the house had not been touched.

Just all the 3 inch by 3 inch pieces of yellow ceramic tile had been carefully dug up and removed.

Police theorized the burglar handed the tile out the bedroom window to a car or truck parked there.

But Decker had something to be thankful for . . . the burglar was very neat . . . all the bits of concrete had been picked up.

Sailor Robbed By Two Men

A sailor, stationed with the USS Toledo in Long Beach, was the victim of an armed robbery Friday in Torrance.

Arlis Ray Braswell, 18, told police he was hitchhiking with two men who had picked him up in Long Beach.

The driver of the car pulled a gun on the sailor near Lomita Blvd. and Hawthorne Ave., and demanded the youth's wallet.

After taking the wallet which contained nearly \$25, the sailor told police the two men let him out of the car and told him to start walking across a vacant field.

Building Hits \$1.4 Million In November

Building permits in November totalled \$1,438,643, bringing the yearly total to \$17,532,755, according to Evelyn Coles, clerk in the Department of Public Works.

The November total was higher than last November's \$1,033,127 but far short of last year's total of \$46,588,438.

Residential construction, with 32 new homes planned, accounted for the biggest chunk of the total—\$440,779. Nine new apartment houses, with 55 units, are planned at a

cost of \$386,180. Five new commercial buildings will be built at a cost of \$382,500.

Also included in the totals are one industrial building worth \$8800, two other buildings valued at \$34,700, 57 permits for alterations or repairs to home costing \$106,075, seven alteration or repairs to other buildings costing \$10,230, one home moved at a cost of \$2500, and 102 miscellaneous permits worth \$66,809.

Biggest permit of the month was for construction of a new Food Giant Market at 4848 W. 190th St., at a cost of \$350,000. Also planned is a new medical building costing \$32,570 at 4060 W. 226th St., by Dr. Max E. Weber. A seven-home tract will be built on 185th St., between Gramercy Pl. and Dorman Ave. by George Chacksfield. Thirteen new apartment units in three buildings will be constructed at 25215-27 Loytan St. at a cost of \$98,440.



CHEST CONTRIBUTION . . . Members of the National Supply Co. Employees' Club raised \$5932 for the Community Chest. Here Edward Mills, the Chest's in-plant federation chairman (center), receives check from Club Vice Chairman Ken Perkin. Others shown are Norman Bulat, welfare chairman; Pat Calderon, budget chairman, and Charles Keane, treasurer. The club received a special appreciation certificate from the Chest for the contribution.

Boy Critically Hurt in Crash

A toy scooter was nearly the instrument of death for a five-year-old Hollywood Riviera lad.

The boy, Clifton W. Reed, 331 Via San Sebastian, lay near death yesterday in Harbor General Hospital, the victim of a traffic accident.

The accident occurred when the lad rode his scooter down the driveway, rolled across the sidewalk and out into the street.

A car driven by Marga Simons, 34, of 634 Calle de Arbolos, struck the youngster, police said.

He suffered a concussion, multiple fractures of the shoulder, arm and leg, according to hospital attendants.

Screams Call Neighbors There were no witnesses to the collision but the driver's screams attracted neighbors to the scene who called an ambulance.

In other accidents Friday, nearly \$500 worth of damage was done to a garage and a lawn when a car driven by Donald Edward Helton, 3826 W. 116th St., Hawthorne crashed into the building.

The damaged garage belonged to Derck N. Englebert, 16814 Fonthill Ave.

Woman Injured Two cars collided on Crenshaw Blvd. injuring an expectant mother, Mrs. Mary Theresa Doran, 22, of 1605 W. 208th St., was thrown against the dash when the accident occurred.

Drivers, Walter Frank Lonsdale Jr., 22, of 1607 W. 208th St., and Donald Patrick Doran, 23, told police they had to suddenly apply their brakes to avoid hitting another car. The Doran auto hit the rear Lonsdale's car.

A 37-year-old Torrance woman fell in a parking lot at a Cabrillo Ave. car dealer's, and broke her jaw bone. Elva Moneyham, of 21726 Halldale Ave. was taken to San Pedro Community Hospital to have her jaw set.

Schools Seek \$6,000,000 In Buildings

A resolution filing applications for seven new schools and additions at 12 other schools has been sent to Sacramento by the Torrance Unified School District.

The projects must be approved by state agencies before work on the new schools can begin. Because of the double session problem in Torrance, the local district has a high priority on the state list.

New schools for which applications were filed included Adams, 238th and Arlington; Franklin, near Towers and Arvada; Lincoln, 166th and Arlington; Madison, 174th and Hawthorne; Magruder, 186th and Amie; and Yukon, 177th and Yukon. Application also was filed for Columbia School for the Handicapped, to be located on the old El Nido site, 186th and Hawthorne.

Additions of four classrooms will be sought at Anza, Arlington, Carr, Edison, Madrona, Newton, Riviera, Sepulveda, and Steele Schools. Two classrooms are sought at Perry School and seven at WALTERIA. Music rooms also will be sought at Carr and Madrona and a kitchen at Torrance Elementary School.

The funds requested also include plans to rehabilitate or replace Fern School, which is not earthquake-proof in accordance with state specifications.

'Messiah' Set Today at 4

"The Messiah," Handel's famed Christmas oratorio, will be presented this afternoon at 4 p.m. in the First Methodist Church, El Prado and Manual. Some 60 voices from local church choirs will take part in the presentation, under the direction of Leslie Sommerville. Four soloists from a Los Angeles church will take part in the oratorio.

The local performance will be one of 75 presented simultaneously in all parts of Southern California.

Tartars Will Present Yule Music Friday

The Music Department of Torrance High School will present a program of Christmas selections in the High School Auditorium at 8 p.m., Friday.

Over 200 students of the concert band, orchestra, Girls Glee Club and Tartar Choir will take part. The program will be concluded with all organizations combining on Handel's "The Halleluiah Chorus" from "The Messiah."

The program is under the direction of James Nichols and Vincent Difore. Accompanists are Elaine Hathaway and Marilyn Holcomb.

Rivets Reports

The sun should shine brightly today after the 1.13 inches of rain Torrance had earlier this week, beamed Rivets, HERALD weather dog. The season's rains have totaled 3.10 inches, considerably above average.

High and low temperatures this week included rainy Thursday (56-59); Friday (68-40); and Saturday (75-41).



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A Penny for your Thoughts

With Christmas rapidly approaching, the HERALD's inquiring photographer asked:

"If you could, would you make any changes in the way we celebrate Christmas? What would they be?"

Ronnie Wood, 11, 4823 Hallson St., Steele School student:

"I wouldn't make any changes. I like the holidays—getting out of school and getting presents. I like to open the packages and get games and toys. It's good just like it is."

Mrs. Bill Condit, Gardena housewife:

"I think Christmas is too commercialized. Everything starts way before the day. When I was a child we never saw the tree until Christmas morning. Now we start a month before and there is no surprise for the children."

Hubert Peevey, Bell Gardens, oil company employee:

"I think the way we celebrate Christmas now is fine. As long as we have a good Godly Christmas and use Christ as the headline for the day, it is just fine."

Diane Adler, 13, 2662 Loftview Dr., South High student:

"I wouldn't make any changes, except I think people should think more about the birth of Jesus instead of just giving presents. I enjoy hearing the Christmas story told every year."

Bob Lewellen, 1307 Madrid Ave., print shop operator:

"It's good the way it is, except more emphasis should be put on the religious side of Christmas rather than the mercenary. Every year, we get more away from the true meaning."

Dorothy Reeves, Los Angeles, music teacher:

"It should be less commercialized and there should be fewer gifts. People go all out and to the average family it's a burden. Many people save for three months before and pay for three months afterward. We often forget its purpose; it should be for the kids."



SANTA'S HELPERS . . . Randy Barnett, 1109 Faysmith Ave., and Cheryl Price, 3431 W. 228 Pl., were among the first Torrance residents to donate toys to the 1957 Toys for Tots campaign. Looking on are Dave Figueroa, operator of the Shell Service Station at Torrance Blvd. and Crenshaw, and Pfc. Gerald Wood, 22809 Ocean Ave., a member of the 5th Communications Co., USMC. Toys for Tots is sponsored by U.S. Marine Corps Reserve units.

SHELL STATIONS JOIN TOYS FOR TOTS DRIVE

Full-grown men began laboring this week in order that thousands of Southland children may smile on Christmas morning.

The men are members of the United States Marine Corps Reserve units in Los Angeles and they are laboring mightily in the 1957 renewal of their Toys For Tots campaign. All toys collected during the three week campaign, which closes Dec. 21st, will be distributed to underprivileged children on Christmas by local welfare agencies.

Shell Oil Co. and its service station operators co-sponsor the nationwide drive, with toys beinck collected in special barrels at neighborhood Shell stations. Shellmen are also assisting the Marines in picking up the toys and delivering them to Marine armories where they will be sorted according to age groups and serviceability.

In the Torrance area, the drive is being coordinated by the Fifth Communications Co., headquartered in Long Beach. This unit is responsible for the drive in South Coast and Southern Los Angeles County communities.

Since the Marines do not have the facilities to repair toys, only new or useable playthings are desired. Last year more than 175,000 toys were distributed to children in the greater Los Angeles area. This met the demand, but the Marines expect a greater need for

Torrance GI 'Guilty' in Man's Death

A Torrance soldier stationed in Frankfurt, Germany, has been sentenced to 20 years at hard labor for killing a 60-year-old German during a drinking spree.

PFC Marlin L. Gurmo, 21315 S. Vermont Ave., received the sentence from a U. S. Army court martial, which also provided for a dishonorable discharge. The sentence is subject to review by higher authorities, however.

Although charges originally called the death premeditated murder, the seven-officer court ruled that there was no premeditation.

Gurmo claimed he was innocent and said he recalled nothing about the events surrounding the killing of Eduard Hof, a pensioner who worked as a kitchen helper at Gurmo's barracks.

Hof was killed on Oct. 1 in his shack, where part of the drinking party took place.

NO. TORRANCE GROUP IN BUY-AT-HOME DRIVE

Buying in Torrance as one method of keeping the tax rate low will be urged by the North Torrance Civic Improvement Assn., according to President John G. L. Crain.

This recommendation was made at the group's meeting last week. Buying in other cities increases sales tax revenues of those cities and does nothing to lower the tax rates of Torrance residents, he pointed out.

The NTCIA, which last week formally protested the high tax rate in a letter to the board of supervisors, also took other steps in the tax realm.

Frank Forby, 3329 W. 176th St., urged the group to join the California Taxpayers Assn. to battle high taxes. Crain appointed Forby as head of a

committee to study the taxes in the area and to appear before the Board of Equalization next year if they believe the levies are out of line.

An informal poll of members showed that taxes this year increased from 16 to 40 per cent, with an average increase of about 27 per cent, Crain said.

Speaking to the group, Councilman Nicholas O. Draie said the city had attempted to hold down expenses wherever possible.

In other activities, Crain told the group that money raised at various NTCIA fund-raising functions would be placed in a fund to build a youth-adult center for the area. The group also made plans to set up a Christmas tree stand at 174th and Yukon.