

Heart Surgeon Cited for Reviving Four-Year-Old

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Torrance Herald

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45th Year—No. 96

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TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 1959

10¢ Per Copy

21 NETTED IN NARCOTICS RAID

Grand Jury Names Seven Before Raid

A series of raids which netted 21 persons in the area Friday night and early Saturday may have smashed a \$1000-a-day dope ring with direct connections to the Mexican border, sheriff's deputies reported yesterday.

Principal target of the raid was the Thunder Island at 2502 W. Redondo Beach Blvd., where 19 of the 21 persons were arrested.

Seven of those taken into custody had earlier been named in county grand jury indictments.

Sheriff's deputies were joined by detectives from Torrance and Redondo Beach in making the raid.

Friday night's action followed nearly three months of investigation by the sheriff's narcotics squad. During this time, undercover agents reportedly purchased 15 pounds of marijuana from members of the ring.

Sheriff's department officers said the group evidently had been dealing in narcotics pills, marijuana, and heroin.

Donald L. White, 28, of 21215 Avalon Blvd., the only suspect with a Torrance address, had been among those named in the grand jury indictments.

The bar at which most of the suspects were arrested was described as a hangout for narcotics sellers and users.

TO PAY BONUS

First Western Bank and Trust Company has announced it will distribute a year-end bonus to employees on Dec. 7, according to Mort E. McMillen, president.

Annex Try May Delay Road Job

Completion of Hawthorne Blvd. south from Pacific Coast Hwy. through the Palos Verdes hills may be held up by maneuvering of Rolling Hills Estates officials to force annexation of Great Lakes Carbon Corp. and Grandview Estates areas to their city, a county spokesman said this week.

Officials of the recently formed city on the hillside expressed concern over justifying expenditures outside their city limits.

If the attitude continues, money set aside for that portion of the roadway might be switched to the Torrance end of the project, it was hinted. The county has \$285,000 budgeted for the Rolling Hills Estates portion of the roadway, and this, plus other monies from delayed county projects, might be made available to take the roadway to the Rolling Hills Estates city limits.

A Penny for your Thoughts

"Do you plan to do your Christmas shopping early, or will you wait until the last minute?" This question was asked five people in Torrance and their answers appear below.

Carole Anna, Los Angeles, jewelry clerk:

"I intend to do my Christmas shopping early and get it out of the way. I do this every Christmas. If I put it off until the last minute I get caught in the rush. I have started shopping this week."

M/Sgt. Fred Bratkowsky, US Marine Corps, Recruiting Station:

"I have done my Christmas shopping and I am broke. I think shopping early gives me time to plan what I want to buy and then I have a great selection when I shop early than I would have during the rush."

Mrs. J. F. Evans, 916 Sartori, machine operator:

"I believe in doing my Christmas shopping early and I have done most of it now. I usually get it done early and spend the rest of the time wrapping and decorating my packages."

Mrs. Don Thompson, 1662½ W. 240th St., housewife:

"I will get my Christmas shopping done early—I hope. My husband will help me get it done, at least, he had better. The reason of all the shops start their Christmas advertising early is to get customers into the mood."

John Wingrath, Lakewood, edit manager:

"I agree that doing Christmas shopping early is a good plan for all concerned, but I will probably end up doing mine the last minute like I do every year. I'll be there fighting the crowds."

Hospital Chaplain To Present Film

Chaplain John Penner of Harbor General Hospital will present a film entitled "More Than Medicine" at the Avalon Village Baptist Church tonight at 7:30.

Chaplain Penner has been assigned to Harbor General for the past 7½ years, and will present many of his experiences through the 25-minute color film.

The day has been designated "Missions Sunday" at the church at 451 E. 223rd St.

At Banquet

Little Debbie Gives Thanks

Tribute was paid to Dr. Arthur O. Weber and Dr. Ray Halpern last night by more than 100 fellow doctors and guests at the annual banquet of the Southwest District of the Los Angeles County Medical Assn. in the Thunderbird International Hotel, El Segundo.

Special guest of honor was little Debbie Hodges, who was electrocuted in the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. James C. Hodges, 21926 Ocean Ave., Nov. 7.

MRS. JANE FEIST and Arnold Frost, neighbors, rushed the child and her mother to the Kent Medical Center where Dr. Weber, young Torrance surgeon, boldly opened her chest and began to massage her heart while Dr. Halpern, Torrance pediatrician, quickly passed a tube down the girl's throat and kept up mouth-to-mouth breathing.

When Dr. Weber first examined the child there was no heart beat and her skin had turned blue. Debbie had been standing on a wet mop and had come in contact with a short in a vacuum cleaner and the shock had left her rigid and she appeared to be dead. The team work and fast action of the doctors is credited with saving her life.

IN PRAISING these two member physicians, Dr. William C. Casey, spokesman for the medical group, said:

"The Southwest District wishes to salute Doctor Weber and Doctor Halpern for their forthright action, courage, and boldness in saving the life of little Debbie Hodges a few weeks ago. We commend them most highly on their medical skill and their prompt action which produced a most happy result."

Debbie, who gladly gave up a few hours of sleep, again thanked Doctor Art and Doc-

tor Roy for saving her life. The most grateful of all those present were Debbie's parents.

"WE WOULDN'T have missed tonight for anything," said Hodges.

"Really, we don't feel there is any personal credit due," replied Dr. Weber. "Dr. Halpern and I just happened to be at the right place at the right time. It was a real team effort. We received valuable help from a number of other doctors both in the office and in the Riviera hospital."

"Seeing Debbie well again is our big reward," Dr. Halpern added.

Except for the healed chest scar, Debbie shows no effects from her life saving experience.

American Medical Assn. representatives are anxious to present Debbie at its next convention. According to Dr. Claud E. Beck, pioneer heart surgeon, this is the first known instance that a chest has been opened and heart massage done successfully outside of a hospital.

100,000 Use Plunge

Nearly 100,000 swimmers used the city plunge during the past season, according to Recreation Director Harry Van Bellehem.

The total admissions was the highest since the pool was opened four years ago, he said.

Children accounted for about 70 per cent of those using the plunge facilities, although the night and weekend swimming was popular with adults.



GOOD FRIENDS . . . Drs. Ray Halpern and Arthur Weber chat with Debbie Hodges, 4, prior to attending Southwest Medical Assn. banquet at Thunderbird International Hotel last night. Doctors were cited for emergency treatment that saved girl's life after she was electrocuted in home Nov. 7. (Herald Photo)

In Compton

Plane Hits House; Local Pilot Dies

A Torrance pilot was killed when his plane crashed onto the roof of a Compton home Friday night but six persons inside the house escaped miraculously.

Identified as pilot of the plane which burned atop the home was Norman W. Thomas,

29, who lived at 5131 Zakon Road, an aeronautical engineering student.

Compton police said Thomas was apparently trying to land the Aeronca plane at the Compton airport when the craft struck a cable attached to a tower.

The plane crashed into the roof of the home of Harry Gaffney. It crashed just over two bedrooms where Gaffney, 35, and his wife, Alice, 28, and their four children were sleeping, police said.

Although firemen extinguished the flames quickly, the home was heavily damaged.

Investigators said Thomas apparently took off from Torrance Municipal Airport about an hour before the 11 p.m. crash.

A search of the neighborhood was made after the crash in the belief that Thomas may have had a passenger. One witness said he saw something fall from the plane before it crashed.

Final Plans to Dedicate New Hospital Completed

Final preparations for the formal dedication of the new \$3,500,000 Little Company of Mary Hospital in Torrance have been completed. Mother M. Patricia, hospital administrator, has announced.

Ceremonies will be held Saturday, Dec. 12, at 2 p.m., with His Eminence James Francis Cardinal McIntyre, archbishop of Los Angeles, officiating.

Sharing the platform with the Cardinal at the ceremony will be Gordon L. Cummings, director of the Bureau of Hospitals, California Department of Public Health, who will represent Gov. Edmund G. Brown.

OTHER PROMINENT guests on the program will be County Supervisor Burton W. Chace, Mayor Albert Isen of Torrance, and P. S. Magruder, General Petroleum Corp. vice president, who will represent industry in the local area.

Also participating in the ceremonies will be Dr. John A. Wilson, president of the new hospital medical staff; Robert I. Plomert Jr., hospital advisory board chairman, and Mrs. Frank H. Forester, Little Com-

pany of Mary Hospital Auxiliary president.

The Rev. Fr. James A. O'Gorman, St. James Parish of Redondo Beach, and the Rev. Fr. Joseph K. McArdle, Nativity Parish of Torrance, will assist Cardinal McIntyre.

The new 150-bed hospital, located at 4101 Torrance Blvd., will begin admitting patients about Jan. 1.

Barber Shop Group Meets Weekly Now

The recent organization meeting at Jefferson School to reform a Barber Shop Harmony Chapter in the local area was quite a success, according to Ed Daut, president.

This new All-American Chapter is now meeting regularly every Monday evening at 8 in Music Room 2, South High on Pacific Coast Hwy. in Torrance. Attendance has been averaging between 30 and 35 voices each week.



CHILDREN INJURED . . . Two Fern Elementary School children were injured Wednesday afternoon when they were struck by a pick-up truck driven by Harry W. Erwin, 62, of Long Beach as they were crossing Torrance Blvd. in a school crossing with a crossing guard. Shown in the foreground is Deborah Flemons, 9, of 804 Cerise Ave., and beyond her is Daniel Peterson, 10, of 811 Elm Ave. Both were treated at Harbor General Hospital and released. Police said the driver failed to stop for the Torrance-type traffic signal. (Herald Photo)



YULE DECORATIONS . . . Verne Christofferson examines some of the many attractive and practical Christmas decorations to be made by members of a special class at the Arts & Crafts Center in Sea-Aire Park. Groups will meet at 1 and 7 p.m. on Dec. 2, 3, 9 and 10. Registration remains open, according to the sponsoring Torrance Recreation Dept.