

# Greening Auto Kills Two Here

Your Complete Community Newspaper—Every Sunday and Thursday

## Torrance Herald

OFFICE AND PLANT AT 1619 GRAMERCY AVE., TORRANCE

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# TORRANCE MAN DIES IN FRANCE

## Ex-THS Grad Killed When Auto Crashes

A 20-year-old Torrance High School graduate was killed in France Monday when his auto careened off the highway between Strasbourg and Nancy and crashed.

Dead is Kenneth E. Wheat, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ted M. of 139 Camino de las Colinas in the Hollywood Riviera section of Torrance.

Young Wheat, who had been in France since the fall of 1958 for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, was due to be returned to the United States next June. He had completed 25 months of a 30-month mission for the church in the French Mission.



KENNETH WHEAT

BEFORE being called to the French Mission, Kenneth attended Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah, for two years and was planning to return there next fall. He was graduated from Torrance High School with the class of '56.

After moving to Torrance with his family in 1942, Kenneth attended the Fern-Greenwood Elementary schools and Torrance High. He was active in athletics and drama in high school, and was a lifeguard at the city plunge during summer months.

A COMPANION riding with young Wheat was critically injured in the crash, but is expected to recover, the dead lad's father told the HERALD yesterday. The Wheat's learned of their son's death early Tuesday.

Kenneth's father served as Bishop of the Torrance Ward of the church from 1950 to 1955 and during this period supervised the construction of the Chapel at 220th St. and Cabrillo. Mrs. Wheat also has been active in youth organizations, and both have served in many church organizations since coming here in 1942.

THE BODY of the Wheat lad is being returned to Los Angeles by air and will be in the Christiansen - Pino Mortuary, 244 Redondo Ave., Long Beach. Funeral services will be arranged in the Redondo Stake Center, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 2000 W. Artesia Blvd. Final arrangements are pending arrival of the body.

## Jaycee Week Opens Here Next Sunday

Jaycee Week, the annual anniversary observance of the Junior Chamber of Commerce, starts next Sunday in Torrance, Bob Vroman, local Jaycee president, announced today.

The Week, which will run until Saturday, Jan. 21, will be capped off Thursday, Jan. 19, with the annual Bosses' Night, honoring the bosses of all Jaycees. The banquet will be at Palms Restaurant.

Bosses' Night is an annual feature of Junior Chambers throughout the nation. It is dedicated to the bosses who support the Jaycees and recognize the value of the organization. This year a "Boss of the Year" will be chosen and a certificate will be issued. Jaycee Week celebrates the founding of the Jaycee movement. (Continued on Page 3)

## EIGHTH GRADER NEW 'CARRIER OF MONTH'

A Howard Wood Elementary School eighth grader was tabbed as the HERALD Carrier of the Month this week by Circulation Manager Darrell Westcott.

Bob Pelle, of 23630 Pennsylvania Ave., who delivers the HERALD each Sunday and Thursday near his home, won the re-acton on the basis of his operation of the route.

The son of Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Pelle, Bob has lived in this area for two years, coming here from Englewood, Colo. His parents are both aircraft workers, and his father has been employed at Douglas Long Beach.

Bob has two brothers and a sister, but is the only carrier in the family, he told Westcott. He likes to surf in the summer months, and is currently saving money to purchase a camera.

"I like to take pictures," he explained.



BOB PELLE Wins Carrier Bonus



DEATH CAR... Five-year-old model sedan which had just carried two area youths to their deaths early Sunday morning on Redondo Beach Blvd. just east of Prairie Ave. The auto slammed through a power pole near the St. Catherine Labouré Catholic Church, killing the driver and his passenger instantly. (Herald Photo)

## One Motorist Booked After Fatal Crash

Two youths were killed and a third arrested on suspicion of manslaughter in a spectacular crash early Sunday on Redondo Beach Blvd. just east of Prairie Ave.

Killed instantly when the late-model sedan slammed through a power pole and flipped were William L. Laursen, 22, of Lawndale, and his passenger, Robert Gray, 22, of Gardena.

## Cops Nab Pair in Robbery

A platoon of heavily armed Torrance and area police flushed a teenage gunman from a motel hideout late Tuesday after he assertedly forced a teenage friend to assist him in an armed robbery of a Torrance liquor store.

Ronnie L. Muse, 17, of 22618 Fries Ave., Carson, was arrested without a struggle after police crashed into his motel room near Carson St. and Western several hours after a liquor store at 23421 Western Ave. was robbed of \$150.

POLICE HAD been tipped off to the youth's hiding place by the second teenager who hailed a passing LAPD car at Western Ave. and Lomita Blvd. to confess his part in the affair. Torrance police yesterday released the second youth.

Squads of Torrance and Harbor Division police descended on the Carson area motel, armed with shotguns, Torrance detectives crashed into the room and took Muse without further struggle. A gun similar to one Clerk B. E. Johnson said was used to threaten him in the robbery earlier was found in a hall closet.

JUVENILE BUREAU officers said statements by Muse substantiated the other lad's story that he was forced to go along with the robbery against his will.

Although charged with a felony, Muse will be held in Juvenile hall pending a hearing.

DRIVER OF the second car, Richard L. Breneman, 21, of Gardena, who apparently knew the fatally injured pair, was arrested by Lennox Sheriff's deputies after investigators said his vehicle changed lanes unexpectedly, causing the Laursen car to crash.

Laursen, driver of the auto, was a native of Denver and had lived in this area for nine years. He was a graduate of Leuzinger High School and had been employed at North American Aviation.

FUNERAL services for Laursen were held yesterday afternoon at the Halverson-Leavell Mortuary Chapel with the Rev. Dale Hultgren officiating. Burial was in Pacific Crest Cemetery. He was survived by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Viggo Laursen, and three sisters.

## City Gets \$40,721.86 In Licenses

An apportionment of \$40,721.86 to the city of Torrance in state-collected motor vehicle license fees has been announced by State Controller Alan Cranston in Sacramento. The amount is the first and smallest payment for the 1960-61 fiscal year, Cranston said.

The allocation to Torrance was based on the certified census count of 100,991. It represents about 8 per cent of the amount the city can expect during the year, Cranston said.

Larger apportionments will be made in April and June, he added.

## Hospital Advisors Reveal Plan for Founders' Fete

Arrangements were completed yesterday for the Founders Day Dinner sponsored by the Advisory Board of the Little Company of Mary Hospital. It is anticipated that the gala evening affair to be held at the Push Horse on Jan. 25, will become an annual benefit for the Hospital Building Fund.

Honored guest for the evening will be Robert I. Plomert Jr., recently retired president of the advisory board, who was its charter president and active in the organization of the hospital fund raising campaign which resulted in building of the new medical facility.

## Named to Board

Mrs. Hanna Saville of West Torrance was appointed to the city's library commission by Mayor Albert Ison Tuesday night. She has been active in seeking a West Torrance library.

Special invitations to the affair are being mailed to the mayors of the South Bay cities according to Fred W. Mill, chairman of the dinner.

TICKETS for the dinner may be secured at the following locations according to George Post, Hermosa Chamber of Commerce, Redondo Chamber of Commerce, Torrance Chamber of Commerce, Little Company of Mary Hospital, Redondo Trading Post, Harbor Savings and Loan Assn., and Sam Levy's Department Store.

## No Rough Stuff, Trashmen Warned

A "take-it-easy" notice was issued by the city council this week to rubbish collection firms which have been accused of pressure tactics in seeking contracts for commercial and industrial refuse business in the city.

Hearing reports that rough tactics were being employed by some operators in the scramble for the lucrative rubbish contracts, the council issued a warning that licenses would be revoked if such methods were continued.

Councilman George Bradford, a Torrance industrialist,

cited his own experience with contract men for haulers when he brought the matter up to councilmen.

In other action, the council heard a report from Police Captain John Maestri in response to a request from downtown merchants for more police protection, and ordered the matter filed.

The council also offered "unofficial" aid through its legal department to residents of the Alondra area who are opposing a new series of annexation moves by Lawndale.

## TEAC Members Told

# Majority of Torrance's 1960 Grads in College

A majority of 1960 graduates of Torrance's three high schools are attending college this year, members of the Torrance Educational Advisory Committee were told at their monthly meeting Monday.

Topic of discussion was "Torrance's High School Graduates." On a panel were high school counselors, James Blue, North; Lillian Dean, South; and Alice Hammond, Torrance. Also on the program were Lysle Albro, work experience coordinator, and two Torrance graduates, Mrs. Audrey Steven Muensterman and Sherwood Tiernan.

AMONG FACTS brought out at the meeting were:

1. Torrance's three high schools last year had 915 graduates.

2. They won more than \$122,000 worth of scholarships.

3. A survey of graduates brought replies from 723. Of these, 49.5 per cent attend junior college; 15.9 per cent go to a four-year college; 23.4 per cent work; 7.1 per cent married and are full-time homemakers; 2.8 per cent are in the service; and 1.4 per cent go to trade school. (If replies had been received from all 915, the per cent going to college probably would be about 55 per cent, officials said.)

4. MOST of the college students are in 32 California junior colleges or universities, although 20 different states, from New Jersey to Hawaii and Alaska, are represented.

5. An overwhelming majority of those in junior college

are in El Camino, because it is close and has a good program. With an increasing trend toward junior college attendance, experts estimate that some 85 per cent of freshmen and sophomores will enter junior college before going on to university.

7. Of Torrance graduates, at least 48 currently are taking college work toward becoming a teacher. About 10 Torrance high school graduates now have returned as teachers.

8. DURING the past two years, some 1500 students have taken part in Torrance Schools' work experience program, working part-time while going to school. This gives them practical experience while helping some to earn money. Of those taking part, about half go on to college.

Counseling is becoming

more important because it is getting harder to get into college. Mrs. Dean told the group. High schools try to guide promising students into pre-college as soon in their school careers as possible, she said.

STUDENTS ARE encouraged to take such tests as the National Merit Scholarship and "College Board" exams, she noted, and representatives of colleges and trade schools are invited to meet with parents and students. Such an "Education Advisement Night" was held this week, she said.

A Scholarship Handbook, listing grants from leading universities, has been compiled by the Torrance district to help deserving students get help, she noted.

Two 1956 graduates of Torrance High School gave their reactions to their high school

## A Penny for your Thoughts

The following question was asked of five people in the area.

"Do you think that wages correspond with the cost of living?"

Julia Ladd, 21807 S. Neptune, Restaurant manager. "No, I certainly don't. When you do get a little raise, you go into a store and the cost of what you want to buy has gone up. And besides that, your income tax is that much more, so you just can't win."

Mrs. William Rowe, 602 E. 225th St., Wilmington housewife. "Yes, I think they do. We have enough to pay bills and some left over. We are better off than we have ever been. However, we are the fortunate ones that do have jobs. The people that are out of work really have a bad time."

Mrs. Orville Dellinger, 434 W. 234th Place, checker. "No, I don't think so. Prices are going up on everything. For anyone who has a family to support, the money you get just doesn't stretch for enough. It really is outrageous! I hope the new administration will change some of this in the future."

Jean Haslett, 20935 Halldale, bakery clerk. "I think so. It depends on how people manage their money. Food is a little higher and I notice my money does not seem to go as far in buying groceries. But, on the whole, I feel that it's really how you allot your money."

Bill Greenwood, 2179 Sepulveda, Torrance, shoe clerk. "No, I don't feel wages correspond with the high cost of living. The cost of living keeps going up and the wages stay still in comparison. All I can say is 'When will it stop?'"

Grappler at THS  
 A wrestling demonstration by Bertrand Shurtleff was given to the Torrance High School students Tuesday during the first scheduled call of the new year. Shurtleff's performance demonstrated vividly just how professional performers help each other present their entertainment.

Various students were given the opportunity to apply holds, and Shurtleff in turn applied holds to them and explained rapidly and clearly which were truly dangerous.