

Triple Blast Felt

Chatten's Alert Sends Residents Into Streets

Persons as far as three miles away in Walteria heard the triple blast that marked the first local demonstration of Vic Chatten's multiple mortar air raid alert device held last Friday morning.

City and civil defense officials from Torrance and surrounding communities were on hand for the fireworks, which brought numerous residents streaming from their homes into the streets and had switchboards at the police station and local civil defense headquarters all lit up like a yule tree.

Explosion Heard

Observers agreed that the explosions were well heard within a one-mile radius of the scene of the detonation, at Carson st. and Madrona ave., and that there was a fair reaction from other points to a distance of three or four miles.

Chatten stated that he felt the test was a success, but lamented the fact that there was a fast wind from the southeast. He also pointed out that city officials has picked the worst possible spot for the test.

Low Spot

The location used is one of the lowest spots in the city. He said that if the bomb had been fired from Torrance Park, or better yet, from atop the fire station, it would have been heard more widely.

City officials stated that though the multiple mortar has merit they would make no recommendation to the city council as to whether it should be installed here. Assistant Director of Civil Defense George Powell declared that the noisy bomb system coupled with the bell-and-lights telephonic warning system would provide Torrance with the best possible air raid warning set-up.

Chatten meanwhile is negotiating another local demonstration of the bomb. He hopes that he will be allowed to fire it from a point closer to the downtown region, and at a time when more city officials, including the city council, will be able to attend.

Next firing of the multiple mortar, he said, will take place tomorrow at Azusa.

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Man Injured in Fire, Shed Damaged

Minor burns about the face, arms, and chest were suffered by Claro Carlos when a building that he was in caught fire.

The structure, a storage shed at the rear of his home at 1454 W. 225th St., was badly damaged in the inferno, which had an undetermined origin. Carlos surmised that a water heating tank in the shed exploded. This theory was not confirmed by Battalion Chief

Floyd Adams, who directed Engine Co. 79 in battling the blaze. Engine Co. 79 was aided by Engine Co. 38 and Truck 38 in the 15-minute of fire fighting.

Nothing else on the property was damaged except the shed and its contents.

The temple of our purest thoughts is silence. — Mrs. S. J. Hale.

Three Get 100-Hour Health Services Pins

Three Torrance district volunteer workers last week received 100-hour pins and certificates for service to the Los Angeles County Health Department.

Receiving their pins were Mrs. Charlotte Chandles, 461 hours, Mrs. Marion Kayser, 400 hours, and Mrs. Louise Weiss, 419 hours.

Any coward can fight a battle when he's sure of winning; but give me the man who has pluck to fight when he's sure of losing. That's my way, sir, and there are many victories worse than a defeat.—George Eliot.

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