

200 CAPS OF DYNAMITE STOLEN, POLICE WARN RESIDENTS

One Cap Can Blast Off Hand

Juveniles who burglarized a Lomita sand and gravel company over the weekend were really playing with dynamite—literally.

A box containing 200 dynamite caps, each one of which is capable of blowing a person's hand off, were stolen from Chandler's Sand and Gravel co., 26311 Narbonne ave., according to Lennox sheriff's station officials.

Sheriff's officers and company officials issued a warning to parents and local residents to be on the look-out for the dynamite caps.

Anyone knowing of their whereabouts is urged to contact Torrance police (FA. 8-3456) or Lennox sheriff's station (OR 8-3801).

The individual caps look like a copper shell, 1 1/2 inches long and 1/4 inch in diameter.

While the total value of the 200 caps does not exceed \$4.80, their total potential destructive power is too terrible to think about, sheriff's officers said.

If dropped, hit by a hammer, or mashed, one cap could blow a person's fingers or hands off, it was stated.

The caps were stolen out of a supply house, the theft appearing to be the work of juveniles. The caps are generally used to set off a powder charge to blast the sand down, company officials stated.

WATCH OUT FOR THESE!

This is the way a dynamite cap looks. A total of 200 such caps was stolen from a Lomita sand and gravel pit over the weekend. Police issued an alert, asking anyone knowing of their whereabouts to notify them immediately — Press Photo.

Pilot Walks Away From Plane Crash

A Torrance airman walked away uninjured from a plane crash which occurred seconds after his ship had taken off from Grenier Air Force base this week.

First Lt. G. A. Whiting of Torrance was co-pilot of the twin engine Air Force C47 which took off in a snow-storm only to plummet to the ground with its load of nine passengers and three crewmen.

None of the members of the flight were critically injured, but the crewmen were held at the base dispensary for observation.

The plane was bound for Ft. Knox, Ky., where the passengers were to have made an inspection tour.

This Edition Largest Ever

This week's colorful edition of the Torrance Press marks the biggest Progress Edition ever published in Torrance.

It contains a variety of well-written stories and illustrations telling the story of Torrance. Furthermore, this edition contains the largest amount of advertising lineage ever published by a Torrance newspaper.

Nixon Congratulates Press On Special Progress Edition

Torrance's spectacular growth and colorful history is being featured this week in the exciting annual Progress Edition published by the Torrance Press.

The event has been lauded by important public figures on a national, State, and local level.

Congratulatory messages were received from U. S. Vice President Richard Nixon; U. S. Congressman Cecil R. King, 17th congressional district; California Governor Goodwin J. Knight; and Torrance Mayor Albert Isen.

Their letters are reproduced on the colorful front page of this edition. This special Progress Edition represents just one more way in which the Torrance Press reflects the fabulous growth of this community by highlighting all important events.



HOP, SKIP, AND FLIP

A '55 Renault swerved, skidded and rolled over south of Torrance Blvd. late Friday afternoon when another car allegedly cut in front of it. Driver of the Renault, George Brundage, 37, of 3530 W. 228th st., received only minor injuries but was booked for drunk driving.—Press Photo.

The Largest Circulating Newspaper between Los Angeles and Long Beach



TORRANCE PRESS

10¢

1406 CRAVENS AVE. — Phone FA. 8-2345

VOL. VIII

THURSDAY, APRIL 26, 1956 — TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA

No. 2

COUNCIL BRIEFS

RESIGNATION: Beverly B. Smith, planning commissioner and former president, submitted his resignation from the commission to the City Council Tuesday night. No appointment was made at this time.

DOWNTOWN TRAFFIC: The Chamber of Commerce submitted several traffic recommendations including: additional traffic officers during heavy hours and making one-way streets out of Sartori, Cravens, Post and Marcelina. Recommendations coincide generally with those of Police Chief Willard Haslam.

STOP SIGNS: Police Chief Willard Haslam will submit a master plan next week for traffic improvement throughout Torrance, including additional stop signs. Included will be stop signs at Palos Verdes Blvd. and Carson st.

NEW CIVIC CENTER: Dedication ceremonies are being planned for the weekend of August 11-12. Tying in with the celebration will be National Guard day and parade; rodeo and parade sponsored by the Lions club and Mounted Police; and a water revue in the new swimming pool. Governor Goodwin Knight will be invited.

SMITH-DRESSER CASE: The city will not take the matter of the fired building inspectors to the Supreme Court. The District Court of Appeal would reconsider the matter and decide to send the whole case back to the Superior Court for a new trial.

IN LIEU TAX: Torrance's apportionment of in lieu tax from the Motor Vehicle Department amounts to \$365,100, it was reported.

ROAD PROGRAM: Two projects were approved to be paid for out of state gas tax monies. Approval by the state must now be obtained. Projects include resurfacing Post from Carson to Arlington; Carson from Plaza del Amo to Arlington; Arlington from Sepulveda to southerly city limits; Crenshaw from Carson to Dominguez.

GRADING ORDINANCE: An ordinance relating to excavations, filling and other grading of real property was approved at its first reading.

BALLOTS: Ballots from the recent municipal election have been placed in storage for safe keeping with Bekin's storage. A recount has been asked.

AIRPORT COMMISSION: George W. Schneider of Hollywood Riviera has been appointed to the Airport Commission to fill the vacancy left by Bob Jahn, now a member of the City Council.

Trio Invades Home, Family Robbed of \$780

A quiet evening at home turned into a night of terror when a Lomita family was invaded by a trio of youths armed with pistols and a switchblade knife Wednesday evening.

The invaders, said to be in their late teens or early 20's, entered the home of Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Smith of 1710 West 257th st., bound and gagged members of the family and got away with \$780 worth of valuables.

Man Has Car Stolen, Turns Other Cheek

A man who had his car stolen by two teenagers while at church Sunday turned the other cheek after the car was recovered and offered the boys a job rather than punishment.

Edward Greene, owner of Greene's Ready-Mixed Concrete co., 20427 Hawthorne ave., Torrance, discovered that his car had been stolen as he came out of church Sunday.

As he returned home with friends he suddenly saw his car whiz by, with two teenagers inside. He gave chase but the juveniles eluded him.

While Greene reported the theft to police, a woman called the station to inform police of a car which had just been abandoned in front of her home. It was Greene's.

Greene stated that he would like to find the two youngsters involved, but not for prosecution. He thinks the boys might need a job or assistance to help keep them out of further trouble.

7 Injured, 2 Critically, In Torrance Crash Series

A two-car smash up at Palos Verdes Blvd., and Carson st. resulted in critical head injuries to a 17-year-old boy and various injuries to four other persons involved in the crash.

7 Workers Saved From Gas Death

Two men's heroism and fast thinking were credited with saving seven men from being asphyxiated when the victims were overcome by fumes Saturday at the Wilmington plant of Union Oil Co.

Bringing the victims to safety were Clyde Bernhardt, of 1914 W. 262nd st., Lomita, and David Hotchison of Long Beach, who held their breaths, ran into the gassed area, and pulled four of the men out into the fresh air.

Other workmen followed their example and pulled out the other three victims.

Workers applied artificial respiration until rescue units arrived.

Torrance men receiving injuries included William Skipper, 24, of 2435 Cabrillo ave., and James Hall, 25, of 2602 Grand Summit rd.

Refinery officials said the seven victims were overcome by sulphur dioxide gas while working on a cracking unit. Although the unit had been shut off, the gas apparently came through a leak in the mechanism, officials stated.

Skipper was reportedly the most seriously hurt, officials said, stating that workers spent more than half an hour trying to revive him, his heart having stopped beating.

Skipper, Hall, Alitao and Warren Barton, 29, of San Pedro, were taken to a Long Beach hospital.

The three other victims, Morton Wagner, 29, of Long Beach, Charles Gibbs, 33, of Bellflower, and Cecil Stephens, 39, of 1902 W. 227th st. were treated and released, officials stated.

Los Angeles Fire Department rescue crews responded to the call to aid the stricken men.

Critically injured was Frank Cook, 17, of Wilmington, who was riding in a car driven by Homer A. Vandergrift, 18, of 22620 Ellinwood.

The car driven by Vandergrift and one driven by Jerome Shannon, 25, of 5130 Cathann street, were involved in the wreck.

Police said that Shannon's car was going north on Palos Verdes boulevard, and Vandergrift was driving eastbound on Carson street when the accident occurred Thursday.

Three police cars and Wright's Ambulance responded to the accident call.

Frank Cook and John Cook, 15, also a passenger in the Vandergrift car, were taken to Harbor General hospital following the accident.

John Cook suffered a shoulder injury. Hospital authorities reported him to be in fair condition.

Vandergrift suffered knee and head injuries, authorities said.

Shannon was taken to Hawthorne hospital for treatment. George H. Wilson, 22, of 5029 Cathann, a passenger in Shannon's auto, received minor injuries and was not hospitalized, Harbor hospital authorities reported.

Anza Crash
Two women were injured, one critically, in a crack-up Friday night at Torrance boulevard and Anza avenue.

Reported in fair condition at Gardena hospital was Constance Cobb, 21, of Manhattan Beach. She suffered neck and back injuries and possible concussion, hospital authorities said.

Evelyn Hathaway, 44, of Pasadena, a passenger in the other car was injured, but not hospitalized.

Bandits Rob Liquor Store

Two young bandits held up a liquor store across from the Torrance police station last week, escaping with \$475.

One of the youths simulated a gun under a jacket, Verne Swift, clerk at the store located at Marcelina and Cravens said.



WHODUNIT?

Police Chief Willard Haslam and Mayor Albert Isen look over rubbish dumped in the alley right across from the police station in flagrant violation of Torrance's dumping law. An attempt is being made to determine who was responsible.—Press Photo.

Real Reason To Cry in Your Beer

One of two robbery suspects really never had much of a chance to enjoy his share of six cans of beer. Not only did the victim give him a hard time, but police nabbed him within 45 minutes of the alleged robbery.

Booked on suspicion of armed robbery was James W. Thomas, 20, of 1735 West 257th street, Lomita. The other suspect has not been caught as yet, according to Lennox sheriff's officers.

Paul R. Richardson, 59, of 25633 Lucille avenue, Lomita, was walking along Pacific Coast highway near Lucille avenue when he was confronted by two men who demanded the beer.

Richardson set the package down and then pulled out a small jackknife in self-defense as one of the suspects came forward.

The suspect grabbed a nearby metal advertising standard and tried to hit Richardson, who warded off the blow.

At this time the second suspect picked up the beer and both men ran off.

Lennox sheriff's officers, on patrol, noticed Thomas near the same location about 45 minutes later. They did not like the story he told and when they showed him to Richardson he identified Thomas as the man who had assailed him earlier that evening.

Illegal Votes, Errors Charged, Ask Recount

A petition requesting a recount of Torrance's April 10 City Council election has been filed in the Los Angeles Superior Court, it was announced this week.

The petition charges that illegal votes were cast and that precinct boards made errors sufficient to change the results of the election.

First Draftee Of World War I Dies

Funeral services were held Monday for the first man to be drafted in World War I.

Ellis C. Williams, 63, of 2005 Hinsdale, Torrance, suffered a heart attack last Friday.

He still kept in his wallet the newspaper clipping which told that he was the first man to be drafted for service in World War I. Williams served in the armed forces for four years.

He is survived by his brother, Dr. J. B. Williams of Van Nuys; and his sister, Mrs. Buest of Tarzana.

Williams had been a resident of Torrance since last July.

Services were held at Pierce Brothers Mortuary in Los Angeles.

Turn Clocks Ahead Sunday

Time marches on! when we go on Daylight Saving Time. That's the order of the day—Watches and clocks must be especially Sunday, April 29, set AHEAD one hour.

3758 More Polio Shots Available to Children

With the second series of polio shots completed, the Torrance area branch of the Los Angeles County Health Department announced that it has enough vaccine on hand for 3758 more injections.

These shots will be available as of May 1. Those eligible will include any children from kindergarten through the fourth grade who were not included in the original program, and to pregnant women, as well as children from the fifth grade and up, if the supply lasts, according to Dr. B. A. Kogan, Torrance district health officer.

This program is part of the federally-sponsored 30 million dollar polio vaccine program. Many of the injections will be made at the pre-natal and well-

baby conferences in the district health office.

"We estimate that about 80 per cent of the children in this age group — kindergarten through fourth grade — in the cities served by the Torrance district health office, will have received their second polio shots by May 1, giving everyone in this group a very good immunity to the crippling disease," the health officer stated.

From January 1 to the middle of April of this year, 19,618 polio injections were given to school children in this district, with a total of 2373 absentees and with 462 cancellations for various reasons during this same time, according to figures available at the health office.

"These children who missed out on the poliomyelitis program for one reason or another will be given first priority on the vaccine we have left," Dr. Kogan said today.

\$\$ Torrance Bargain Days This Week-End \$\$