



Press Photos by Ralph R. Gompertz

# 3-Year-Old Boy Drowns In Sump

Children, full of the excitement and the novelty of living, have a natural curiosity. Some have it more so than others. Sometimes that curiosity becomes fatal. Last Thursday a four-year-old girl and a three-year-old boy found their way to a large drainage pit just southwest of Torrance Blvd., near Hawthorne Blvd. Suddenly the carefree joy of childhood turned to terror as little Johnny J. Williams, 3, of 5033 Scott st. slipped into the five-foot sump.

### Tries To Tell Adults

His frightened playmate, Barbara Hooten, 4, of 5111 Scott st., ran home.

"Johnny fell in the water—boom, boom!" she told the grown-ups, trying to explain what happened.

Johnny was known to play with water sprinklers and so the comment aroused no suspicions or concern.

About an hour and a half elapsed.

Finding out that Barbara had last been with her son, Mrs. Jay R. Williams had the little girl show her where they had been.

Quickly then Mrs. Williams called Torrance firemen, who, together with Los Angeles County life guards, rushed to the scene.

Two suspicious marks could be seen at different ends of the sump. It looked as if they had been made by someone slipping into the water.

### Start Search

Lifeguards, police, and firemen stripped to their shorts, forming a human chain across the sump.

Then they began moving forward methodically through the cold and murky waters.

"No news is good news," one exclaimed.

Their continued walking, the water often up to their necks. The sump was several hundred yards long and about 75 feet wide.

"No news is good news," someone said again after the half-way mark had been reached.

Now they had dragged two-thirds of the lake. "This is where the other prints are," Chief J. J. Benner said. Suddenly the human chain came to a halt.

"I've got him," one of the men said quietly.

He reached down for the body. The other men helped him. Then they brought the child ashore. They placed a blanket around him gently.

In the distance, a mother's sudden heart-piercing cries could be heard. She wanted to rush to her child but friends led her gently away.

Officials of the Kauffman-Wilson organization were stunned.

Workmen, who had been dumping and leveling sand in the area, said that they had not seen the children.

The children had apparently come in through a gate in the five-foot fence which had been left open for the dump trucks.

Adults and children, each living in a different world, had gone about their business.

# PARENTS DEMAND PROTECTION AGAINST DEATH SUMP MENACE



The Largest Circulating Newspaper between Los Angeles and Long Beach

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# Council Deadlocks on Airport Issue, Lack of Safety Cited

## HALT FLIGHT STRIP

A touch-and-go strip which could be used for practice landings and take-offs by amateur fliers with virtually no control over their activities was temporarily blocked when the City Council deadlocked on the issue Tuesday.

While it was agreed that a touch-and-go strip was desirable on the Torrance Airport for safety reasons, it was also pointed out that the strip would be a hazard rather than a safety measure at this time because there are no proper laws at present governing over-all flight activities.

Councilmen Victor Benstead and Bob Jahn were opposed to erecting a touch-and-go strip at this time, before the city has proper laws governing air traffic.

Acting Mayor Willys Blount and Councilman Nick Draie favored the establishment of the touch-and-go strip.

The matter was recommended to the council for approval by the Airport Commission by a vote of 3-2 with Mayor Albert Isen absent, the council deadlocked.

Bob Herrick, member of the (Turn to Page 12)

### EDITORIAL

## Flying's Fine But...

We believe that a touch-and-go strip on the Torrance Airport is of vital importance to keep up with the growing interest in aviation and the increase in flight activity.

However, we should put first things first—and the first thing is safety.

Without proper laws regulating air traffic, the touch-and-go strip—intended as a safety measure—will actually become a hazard.

Then when a tragedy occurs, everyone will raise a hue and cry over the lack of proper safety measures—just as has been done throughout the unpleasant history of Torrance's unfenced and unguarded sumps and oil derricks.

Let's have our flight strip — but let's regulate it first!

## Postmaster Becomes Detective

Sometimes postmasters aren't just postmasters. They become detectives.

That, at least, has turned out to be the lot of Postmaster Clara A. Conner of Torrance.

It started when a wallet containing \$2.07 and a number of snapshots without further identification were turned in to her September 1.

One picture was of a Catholic nun, and Mrs. Conner used that for her lead in tracing the wallet's ownership.

Her search led from here to Baldwin park, Santa Barbara, Cleveland, and finally Wisconsin.

There she located Sister M. Clarine in Plymouth, Wisconsin, who suggested that Mrs. Conner contact the Bryslan family at 18308 St. Andrews place, Torrance. One of the children whose picture was among those in the wallet had been in Sister Clarine's class.

Mrs. Conner followed up the lead and found it to be right.

She contacted the Bryslans, who came to claim the wallet last Saturday, November 10.

## NEWS BRIEFS

**COURT:** County Land Department and architects are working on the plans for Torrance's municipal court, City Manager George Stevens stated. Because a 36" water main would interfere, the court will not connect through an underground passage with the police station and will have more frontage on Torrance Blvd.

(Turn to Page 12)

## PRESS AD -- A REAL GASSER...

You probably wouldn't have any trouble selling an ice box to an Eskimo—if you used the Torrance Press classified section.

J. Worland, former owner of a Mobile gas station at 1851 Sepulveda, probably considers this a pretty reasonable claim. While he didn't exactly sell an ice box to an Eskimo, he did sell a pretty big item—his service station—through a tiny Torrance Press classified ad.

The ad read as follows:

**MOBILE** gas station and garage, 13,000 gallons plus, inventory and equipment only, D.A. 6-7583

Woodward, needless to say, was extremely pleased with the results.

Whatever your problem, solve it with a Torrance Press classified ad.

Call FA 8-2345. It's only \$1.30 for 15 words. If you come into the office and pay for it before the date of publication you earn a 30-cent cash discount.

## Christmas Parade Set For Dec. 7

A gala Christmas parade will be held on Friday evening, December 7, it was announced today by Charles Gotts, president of the Retail Merchants division of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce.

Gotts said that the parade will be held in cooperation with the Torrance Mounted Police, with Lt. D. C. Cook of the Torrance Police Department acting as coordinator.

Cook stated that the parade would start at 6 p.m. and would feature as Co-Grand Marshal Buffalo Bill, Jr., and Calamity Jane, both well known TV and movie stars.

Lt. Cook said that the plans call for outstanding bands, floats and mounted groups from (Turn to Page 12)

## Guard Placed At Sump Site By Company

Parents, shocked over the drowning of little 3-year-old John Williams of 5033 Scott street, demanded action this week to stop the recurrence of such a tragedy.

Housewives in the Southwood Homes area began circulating petitions asking protection for their children when news of the fateful drowning began circulating in their tract.

Tuesday night that petition bearing 143 signatures was presented to the City Council.

Petitioners asked that the sump be filled or that an armed guard be posted there at all times.

Willys Blount, acting mayor in the absence of Albert Isen, called upon City Manager George Stevens for a report on what has been done.

The drainage sump is not city property, Stevens indicated, since it belongs to the Kauffman-Wilson construction firm.

He said that the firm has been asked to post a guard at the sump at all times when the gate is open and work is going on and that the gate be locked when no one is working there.

Once the sump is turned over to the city, Stevens indicated further, the same will be done.

He could not tell residents at this time when the sump will become city property.

### Guard Posted

While the city had received no word from the Kauffman-Wilson firm Tuesday night, Don Wilson of the firm told the Torrance Press yesterday that a guard has been placed there and that he will remain at the sump while men are working in the area.

Wilson also indicated that the firm is studying further methods whereby the dirt would be removed in one large operation rather than in numerous smaller operations.

This way the gate would not (Turn to Page 12)

## What Does Torrance Have To Offer Culturally?

Is Torrance a cultural desert or a cultural oasis? If it is somewhere between these two extremes what does it have to offer exactly? Starting with this issue, the Torrance Press will explore this question in a series of articles dealing with artistic, theatrical, musical and intellectual activities participated in locally. For the first of these articles turn to page 11.



### A WALLET, A HUNCH, AND A HAPPY ENDING

Six weeks ago a lost wallet was turned over to Postmaster Clara A. Conner (r). After weeks of detective work she located the owner. Happily reclaiming her wallet is Faith Ann Bryslan, 14, while her brother, Phil, sister, Susie, and mother, Mrs. Rita Bryslan look on.—Press Photo.

## 3 New Features—Of Babies, Happiness, And Politics

With this edition, the Torrance Press offers its readers three new provocative features. These are columns by Polynois, V. Q. Blunderbuss, and Molly Maudlin, all experts in their respective fields.

Here's what they're writing about this week: **POLYNOISES** — Democrats and Republicans — here's how they differ: A Democrat is a Republican turned inside out, or, if you prefer, a Republican is a Democrat inside out. (see page 13).

**MOLLY MAUDLIN** — There's no such thing as happiness. There is only pleasure and pain. (see page 27).

**V. Q. BLUNDERBUSS** — If people stopped having babies all the ills of the world would be solved. (see page 3).

## City May Give 'Go' Sign To Door-to-Door Peddlers

Tuesday night at the City Council meeting, city attorney Stanley Remelmeyer suggested that the present prohibition of peddlers and solicitors is of questionable constitutionality in fact it is too questionable to risk enforcement in the courts. He said that a method could

be worked out whereby such persons would pay fees of 50 per year or \$5 per day with the approval of the Police department, license inspector, chief of the Fire Prevention bureau and the County Health officer.

Salesmen calling on established businesses in the city would not be affected by the ordinance. Waiving of the fee for disabled veterans is also being considered.

John Kesson, President of the North Torrance Improvement association, City license inspector, Gale Whitacre, has endorsed the move.

## Know Your Gold Seal Merchants

By DAVID MCGRAW

Gold Seal Merchants who are outstanding leaders in their particular fields have been selected for their integrity and honesty and are especially pledged to uphold the highest code of business ethics.

Displayed in their window will be a Gold Seal which is the symbol of satisfaction when shopping.



A. W. "SLIM" RABE, owner of the fashionable WAY-FARER'S restaurant and cocktail lounge at 2230 PACIFIC COAST HIGHWAY, is a native of Utica, Nebraska. Fanning out in popularity like spokes from the hub of a wheel, the Wayfarer lures fastidious diners. Highlighting an inviting menu that features both family dinners and a la carte entrees, are tender steaks, delicious chops, and tasty chicken dishes. Private booths, tables, or counter service accommodate patrons. Facilities for private banquets are available.



JESSE W. MENDENHALL, a distinguished native Angeleño, an alumnus of Fremont high, owner of Jesse's Richfield Service at 2476 Torrance Boulevard, has been catapulted into the spotlight since taking over in April 1956 as his popular corner bristles with activity hourly day and night. Sovereign in service, champion in courtesy, Jesse's reliable Richfield Service specializes in super-lubrication and minor tune-up, in addition to featuring Goodyear tires, tubes, batteries and accessories. He and his wife, Joyce, have a young son, Jeffery.

# See Page 34-35 'Talk Turkey' Coupon Sale -- Don't Miss It!