



# FATHER OF SIX COMMITS SUICIDE

## El Camino College President Announces Retirement in June

Forrest G. Murdock, first and only president of El Camino College, announced to campus associates this week that he will submit his resignation to members of the college Board of Trustees to take effect at the close of the present college year.

The veteran educator, "Mr. El Camino" to thousands within the community, was instrumental in the establishment of the college district and has watched the college grow from its original enrollment of 1100 in 1947 to its current registration of 9600 students.

Dramatic announcement of his decision to retire was made at the annual Christmas luncheon of the college faculty Tuesday. In speaking to the instructors and fellow administrators, he said, "We appreciate the fact that we have such high-quality instruction at El Camino College. In the years to come I hope that the college will grow and thrive, keeping in mind not only the worth and dignity of the faculty, but also the worth and dignity of others with whom we come in contact."

In leaving his position as president of the college and superintendent of the El Camino Junior College district, Murdock told co-workers on the campus that he will retire from the active field of education following 42 years of experience in the public schools.

Prior to coming to El Camino,



FORREST G. MURDOCK

Murdock served for two years as superintendent of the Centinela Valley Union High school district, which then included Inglewood High School. Before that he was principal of San Jose High School.

A native of Washington, the administrator completed his educational training at Washington State University and at Stanford University. His activities in the Centinela Valley and throughout the state have included positions on many local and state working committees.

**COMMUNITY LEADER**  
While principal of San Jose High School, Murdock served as president of the California Secondary School Administrators' association. In 1954 he also served as president of the California Junior College association.

For many years he has been a member of the Board of Directors of the Salvation Army and the YMCA. Murdock is presently serving as chairman of the community division of the YMCA capital funds drive in the Centinela Valley and South Bay areas.

He served for one year as president of the Centinela Valley Music association. President Murdock is currently a member of the Inglewood Kiwanis club and a past president of the San Jose Kiwanis Club.

For the past six years he has served as chairman of the Bank of America Achievement Awards for high schools, and for the same awards for junior colleges during the past two years.

Murdock and his wife, Eva, reside in Inglewood. They are the parents of three children, Bruce, of Inglewood; Stanley, of San Diego; and a daughter, Juanita, Camp, of Mountain View.

The Associated Students of El Camino College honored their college president and his family on his tenth anniversary in office last May at the Beverly-Hilton Hotel in Beverly Hills.

Two of the three present directors of El Camino College assisted President Murdock in the original planning. Carl G. Artwedson left his post as business manager of the Centinela Valley High School district to join the superintendent in the new college venture in the similar capacity of director of business.

Merl F. Sloan left the Centinela district to serve as assistant.

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## Shot Flushes 2 Burglars In Store

A warning shot by Torrance police flushed two burglars out of hiding in the Certi-Bond store at 501 S. Arlington Monday morning.

The two men, Valente G. Molinar, 19, of 2400 W. Del Amo Blvd., and Jesus L. Grajeda, 32, of 2276 W. Del Amo Blvd., came out of the store with their hands up and surrendered to police.

Officers Daly and Jones discovered the pair in the store at 4:40 Monday morning during the course of their normal patrol of the area. The two policemen noticed a broken window in the rear of the store and investigated.

Daly looked into the window, saw Molinar hidden in a pile of carpets and commanded him to come out. Daly shouted the command three times. Then Jones shouted: "Come out," and followed the request with a shot well over Molinar's head when he saw another figure move.

"You've got us," Molinar and Grajeda, who emerged from the shadows in the rear of the store, yelled as they stumbled toward the policemen. "Don't shoot, we're coming out," they screamed.

Daly and Jones, joined by Officers Nice, Doyle and Sergeant Mitchell, searched the store and found that the men had been rifling the jewelry counter in the store, and had placed four weapons, a shot gun, two rifles and a pistol aside.



PRACTICING what they preach, members of the North Torrance Civic Association do their Christmas shopping in Torrance to help boost the city's sales tax revenues. A group of association members are shown above emerging from Scotty's Department store with some of their purchases. From left to right, they are: Harmon Belcher, Odys McElroy, manager of Scotty's, John Mulvihill, Joseph Ramirez, Bert Herzog and LeRoy Horry.

## City Iceman Hangs Self In Garage

A 36-year-old Torrance iceman who had been working long hours every day to support his wife and six children gave up the struggle and took his own life last week.

Robert L. Hampton, of 3433 W. 229th pl., owner of the Union Ice Co., strung wire over the rafters of his garage, stepped on a small ladder and then kicked it over last Thursday evening.

His wife, Edith, and his step daughter, Donna, cut the wire approximately 10 minutes after Hampton had left the house to go into the garage. Called to the home a few minutes after Hampton's body was discovered, Torrance firemen manning rescuitors failed to revive the 36-year-old iceman.

The father of six-year old twins, and step father of two girls and two boys, Hampton had been getting increasingly despondent and nervous in the past few weeks, Mrs. Hampton told police.

He had been working very hard from early morning until far into the night to make a go of his ice business and a living for his family. Since October, however, he had become very irritable and quarrelsome, Mrs. Hampton told Detective Myles Hamilton, of the Torrance Police department.

**QUARREL SATURDAY**  
After a quarrel Saturday afternoon, Hampton seized a pair of scissors and stabbed his chest. His wife told police that

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## Two City Boys Arrested on Dope Charge

Two Torrance teenagers were arrested as part of a South Bay narcotics ring that was broken up by Hermosa Beach police and Sheriff's deputies last week.

Robert L. Dwyer, 18, of 5234 Bindewald rd., and a 16-year old juvenile were among the five nabbed by police who confiscated more than a pound of raw marijuana, 1000 benzadrine pills and other narcotic supplies in two raids Saturday.

Others arrested included William T. Wingblade, 18, and Robert J. Brogan, 23, both of Hermosa Beach, and Virgil D. Gattis, 18, of Manhattan Beach.

The 16-year old Torrance juvenile was in a car driven by Wingblade. Police stopped the car and after a search found marijuana seeds and cigarette papers. The Torrance youth took police to his home to show them marijuana plants that he was cultivating in his yard.

Dwyer was arrested after a raid on a house in Hermosa that police had been watching for five days. They found quantities of dope in the house.

## Parties Get Together With Press Ad

What is it that brings "parties of the first part" and "parties of the second part" together? Not only legal documents but also the Torrance Press. Through the classified section, sellers and buyers, landlords and tenants are brought together for mutual profit and satisfaction.

LeRoy Thompson of 3410 W. 224th st., discovered this truth when he placed an ad in the Torrance Press last week describing a three-bedroom house for rent or lease with option to buy. Out of the 25 or 30 calls he received in response to the ad, he was able to select his new tenants easily and quickly.

You, too, can find a market for your products and possessions by advertising in the Torrance Press classified section. To place an ad call FA. 8-2345.

## Town Topics

**GROUND BREAKING** ceremonies for the Little Company of Mary hospital will be taking place today at Torrance Blvd. and Earl St. City officials, members of the hospital's advisory council, headed by R. I. Plomert, Jr., chairman, and hospital officials will take their turns at shovels when the ceremonies begin at 1:15.

**THE NEW COURT** will be ushered in with the New Year. The third division of South Bay Municipal Court will open its doors to business in the old City Hall on Cravens ave. on January 1. Judge Donald Armstrong, of Torrance, will be back on home grounds to preside over the court which will serve until a new court building is built by the county at the Torrance Civic Center.

**COMMANDER** Albert Z. England, of the Torrance American Legion Post, resigned this week and called in district Legion officials to take over operation of the post. England said "lack of cooperation from the membership" was a major reason for his decision to give up the post leadership.

**APPLICATIONS** for four city jobs were being taken at City Hall. Last day of application for one job, airport attendant, was announced as December 31. Applicants for account clerk, rodman and chairman and draftsman had until January 7 to file. The duties and minimum requirements in each job can be obtained from the Civil Service Board office.

**TORRANCE** went well over the top in the Community Chest drive that ended December 12. City Chest workers, under Chairman Glenn Koger, collected 101.84 per cent of the goal of \$19,887.

**YMCA SECRETARY** Joe Wilcox announced "the space race is on" when he named chairman of three divisions that will compete in raising funds for the Y's 1958 Finance Campaign. Chairman of the heavy industry division is Fred Mills, of U.S. Steel's Columbia-Geneva plant; heading up light industry's division is George Bradford, and leading the professional division is Leonard Ensminger, of Torrance Memorial Hospital. The space race will be shot off January 20 at a dinner in the Civic Auditorium and Col. Dean Hess will light the fuse.

## LOCAL YOUTH NAMED TO ALL-AMERICAN TEAM

The All-America city today has an All-American football hero.

Councilman Willys Blount informed the City Council this week that Tim Roettger, 12-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Paul C. Roettger, of 23043 Doris way, had been named by the Pop Warner Foundation Midget Football League to its 1957 All-America midget football team.

The City Council, in a resolution offered by Councilman Blount last month, had asked the Midget Football League to

consider the candidacy of the Torrance youth.

Roettger, a Seaside Elementary School student and quarterback of the Redondo Crusaders will travel to Daytona Beach, Fla., where he will officially receive the award. He will remain for the program slated by the league from December 26 to December 30 to honor and entertain the All-America squad selected from the more than half million boys who play in the Pop Warner Conference.

## Cats Asked to Stay in Own Back Yard

What should the city do about its friendly cats that wander all over neighbors' homes and yards?

The city council couldn't answer the question Tuesday night and indicated its receptiveness to any suggestions after Mrs. Pat K. McManus, of 3510 W. 228 st., complained to the council that wandering cats were a "nuisance and a health hazard." Mrs. McManus appeared before the council with some of her

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## Council Joins Protest Against Latest Telephone Rate Raise

The City Council moved Tuesday night to join opponents of the latest rate increase granted to telephone companies by the California Public Utilities Commission.

The council adopted a resolution ordering the city to petition the PUC for a rehearing after councilmen received a statement from Councilman Robert Jahn.

Jahn's statement declared: "Not only was the city not notified of the public hearing regarding the proposed telephone rate increase, but that four of the five days of hearings were held in San Francisco and only one day in Los Angeles.

"Although nine days of addi-

tional testimony have been set for hearings in January to take evidence, the Public Utilities Commission ordered an interim rate increase without even hearing one word of testimony from the opponents.

"Such an action by the Public Utilities Commission is outrageous and highly irregular!"

"The results of this action effects thousands of city residents amounting to millions of dollars a year (\$15,000,000) in increased telephone bills."

What it means is:

"All calls beyond the subscribers local calling area will

go up. In most cases the units charged for such calls will be increased both for the initial three minute period as well as for the time beyond the initial period.

"These calls will go up 50 per cent to 90 per cent more than at present. The average customer will find his bill 25 per cent higher. As you know, these charges are hidden in the subscriber's bill as 'Message Unit Charges,' for which no detailed accounting is ever made.

"Here is another shocking fact: This increase was granted

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## Moneta Water Ok Except For Odor, Taste, Color

Some 66 residents on St. Andrews pl. between 182nd and 186th st. will be happy to know that while the water supplied by the Moneta Water company is dirty and smelly it meets health standards for drinking water.

County Bureau of Sanitation inspectors who tested samples of water in the North Torrance area after residents complained reported to the city council Tuesday that there was "nothing wrong with the water chemically," outside of "having a sulphurous and chlorinous taste" and abnormal hardness.

Sanitation inspectors reported that they had been sampling Moneta water monthly and concluded that the water was brown, dirty and discolored because of the presence of iron bacteria or crenothrix. "I am still positive that one or two of their water wells are infested

with crenothrix," Lyle C. Haynes, chief of the county's section of water and sewerage, reported to county health officials.

He said the Moneta company has been applying chlorine to the water to "inhibit and eliminate these growths."

At the same time, the city council received a report from City Attorney Stanley Remelmeier who advised that a law suit was being filed against the Moneta Water Co. to determine whether the company had exclusive rights to service the North Torrance area.

The council had asked Remelmeier to examine the legal obstacles that could prevent the city from purchasing the Moneta Water system and amalgamating it with Torrance's system. Remelmeier recommended patience until a court determination could be obtained.

## Torrance Press Begins \$200,000 Expansion Plan

Ground was broken this week as the first phase of a three-stage building program by the Torrance Press got underway.

William R. Zappas, publisher of the Press, announced the start of construction of a newspaper plant that will be among the most modern community newspaper plants in the west.

The building is being constructed along the east side of Hawthorne Blvd., between Del Amo and Spencer.

A composing room is the first of three units being constructed on the Hawthorne Blvd. site. It will be completed and ready for

operation in 45 days. Composing room equipment will be installed in the structure while construction is proceeding.

Editorial and advertising offices will be built next year, in the second phase of the Press expansion program, Zappas announced. The third and final stage will be the construction of a pressroom and installation of a high speed rotary newspaper press.

The \$200,000 expansion program was undertaken, Zappas said, as an expression of confidence in the future growth of Torrance.



TELLING ON THE BRINK of the beach at Torrance is one end of the Hollywood Riviera Beach Club at 201 Paseo de La Playa. Beach area and parking lot on the beach side of the club washed away during the rains Monday night. A hole 70

feet wide and 30 feet deep was created by the washout, and a car belonging to a patron of the club went down into the pit. Beach Club Manager Ben Norté said the job of filling the area and reconstructing drains would begin in a few days.

**Remember, Torrance Stores Are Open Every Night Until Christmas**