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Man in Suicide Threat

A desperate search for a Torrance man who threatened to take his life is being made today by his French-born wife and police.

They are trying to find Walter Thetford, 29, of 4702 Torrance Blvd., who sent his wife a letter in which he said he will



WALTER THETFORD

do away with himself because he thought he lost his job. Mrs. Thetford received the letter on San Pedro YMCA stationery Thursday morning.

She said that her husband's employer, who had fired him Wednesday, later called and told her he wants him back.

Mrs. Thetford, who married her husband while he was stationed in France with the Army, said she has had difficulty finding a job because of a war injury.

He obtained the job only last December and was trying to make good at it.

After he was dismissed Wednesday, Thetford never returned to the home and the only news from him has been the letter.

The Thetfords have four young children.

Mrs. Thetford and Marjorie Tolomei, Thetford's sister, appealed to anyone who knows of her husband's whereabouts, to have him come home.

Hike Rental Bid For Police Cars

A new contract under which the city rents nine police cars, may cost the city an additional \$12,000, City Manager George Stevens estimated.

Under the former pact, the city rented the cars for 4 1/2 cents per mile for its patrol cars and 7 1/2 cents per mile for traffic units.

Bids received by the Council Tuesday from Oscar Maples and Paul's Chevrolet, were identical.

Both will charge 7 cents per mile for patrol cars and 9 1/2 cents for traffic units.

Crews Pump Water from 50 Flooded Dwellings

City crews toiled through the week to clean up damage caused by the 3.35 inches storm Wednesday, which halted shortly before mass evacuations were made necessary.

Street department personnel was detailed to pump water out of more than 50 homes which were inundated.

They were also scraping up tons of mud which had washed over city streets.

Although damage to private property is still unknown, John Patrick assistant city engineer, said the city's loss was relatively low.

Public works crews were also dispatched to pump out lakes formed in some low areas of the city.

Walteria Lake was a huge puddle of water. The area is uninhabited and used only for farming.

Although the National Guard, Red Cross and Civil Defense were ready to assist, the downpours stopped before any major help from these organizations was required.

Only two families were evacuated and taken to Red Cross

C of C Dinner Names Man of Year Tuesday

Torrance's "Man of the Year" will be named Tuesday at the annual banquet of the Chamber of Commerce in the Civic Auditorium.

J. Roger Deas, public affairs speaker of the American Can Company, will give the principal address.



WADING OUT—Sloshing out of her home at 22704 Earl St., is Mrs. Harold Kemp, while a friend, A. M. Murphy, is carrying her son, Bobby, 8. Mrs. Kemp said her husband, who has a broken foot, waited for two days before rescuers took him out of the home and had a new cast on his foot. —Press photo by Milt Svensk

Flood Waters Halt Invalid's Rescue

An invalid waited two days for medical aid before he was rescued from his home which was blocked by high waters from Wednesday's storm.

Mrs. Pauline Kemp, of 22704 Earl St., complained that she called almost all city departments for two days, and that only the police department had made an attempt to take her husband, Harold, to a doctor.

Broken Foot Kemp, an employee of the Torrance Unified School District, who has been laid up with a broken foot, was finally taken to a doctor Friday noon, by a street department truck which arrived a few moments before police arrived with a boat.

Mrs. Kemp, who said she has had a temperature of 103 degrees since Tuesday, said that despite the flu, she has had to carry her children piggy-back so that they could attend the Meadow Park School.

"When I called for help, everybody promised to come, but nobody showed up except the police, and they couldn't get their cars in," she declared.

Medical Help She said her husband needed medical attention because his plaster cast became wet when he had to turn off the gas at their house which was flooded.

Earl st. is a dirt road which was submerged by water as high as three feet, marooning the Kemps.

Their home sits approximately 50 feet back of the nearest dry road.

Mrs. Kemp said that she had been taking care of her husband's night job in a medical office, because he could not get out of the house.

Child Ill She added that her elder boy, Terry, 11, was developing a form of jungle rot on his foot from being in the water. Her other son, Bobby, is 8.

Mrs. Kemp said that she had no heat or telephone service in the house since Wednesday.

The Kemps' two cars and that of her brother-in-law Ed Kilgore, were stalled in deep water during rescue attempts.

When notified of the family's plight by a Torrance Press team, Police Chief Percy Bennett immediately rushed a boat to the scene, only to find that a street department employe had managed to make the evacuation with a four-wheel drive truck.

Hotel Lease at Airport Sought Request to negotiate a 50-year lease with the city to construct a hotel, restaurant and terminal office at Torrance Municipal Airport will be considered by the City Council Tuesday.

The application for a 90-day option during which time financing arrangements could be made, was made by Erwin E. Wilson, 3960 Pacific Coast Highway.



ROSY FUTURE—Bob Haggard, center, president of the Torrance-Lomita Board of Realtors, studies report on rosy financial future of U. S., given by Clive Graham, left, president of the California Real Estate Association. At right is H. Jackson Pontius, secretary of the CREA. —Press photo.

No Immediate Changes Seen For Airport

No immediate change in operating procedures are seen for Torrance Municipal Airport when the city takes over the field on Saturday.

Don Mansfield, assistant city manager, said that the City Council will have to set policy on daily schedule of flying time and operation of the tower.

Jack R. Egan, assistant chief of operation at Los Angeles International Airport, will take charge as new airport superintendent on March 1.

He will select his assistant from a list of candidates who passed a civil service examination for the post.

Two field attendants will also be hired to man the field. Mansfield said that the first step the city will take will be a dynamic program to lease commercial property fronting on Pacific Coast Highway.

Local Child in Hospital

Sharlene Haga, 20-month-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Randall R. Haga, of 4601 W. 191st St., has been admitted as a patient at Los Angeles Orthopaedic Hospital.

Predicts Big Boom, Big Pay

A business boom that will dwarf the past decade was foreseen for the next six years.

The prediction was made Thursday by Clive Graham, president of the California Real Estate Association when he addressed the Torrance-Lomita Board of Realtors.

Predictions The speaker specially predicted: Construction of 2,250,000 homes per year by the housing industry, in the United States.

A gross national product of \$1,000,000,000,000 compared to the present \$435,000,000,000.

A per capita income rise from \$1,708 to \$2,800.

Bob Haggard, president of the Torrance-Lomita board presided at the meeting, which was attended by representatives of other boards and city officials.

Among special guests were Mayor Albert, Councilmen Willys Blount and Nickolas O. Draie; Dick Fitzgerald, manager of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce.

Other Guests Others were H. Jackson Pontius, secretary of the CREA, Mildred Hards, regional vice president of District 21, K. R. Anderson, president of the South Bay board; Hoyette Sanderlin, president of the Gardena board, H. A. Bringtonson of the San Pedro board and representatives of the Inglewood board.

Graham insisted he was not a crystal ball gazer, but based his predictions on studies by the building and real estate industries.

He said the country will experience the four-day week with more leisure time, greater food production, production of 10 to 12 million autos per year.

Probe Use of Boy As Target for Guns

Bond Petitions Filed

Petitions to place a \$3,000,000 bond issue for park and recreation development on ballot in the April 8 election, were submitted Friday to City Clerk A. H. Bartlett.

Mrs. Eva Bisou, chairman of the signature drive, said she believes sufficient names were obtained to assure the proposition to come to a vote.

She said she and her volunteer helpers obtained 2525 signatures, with 2087 required.

This will be the second time the measure will come up. It was defeated last Oct. 29; during a special election shortly after four members of the Recreation Commission quit during a hassle with the City Council which had sliced the issue down from \$5,000,000.

If the bonds are approved in the municipal election, the city will be able to use the money for immediate acquisition of land and to develop existing parks.

The bond issue was based on a survey made last year by Louis Kroeger and Associates, which pointed up the need for recreational development before all available land is built up.

Press Ad Rents 3-Bedroom Home In Short Time

When Mrs. Violet Cole of 169 W. 220th St., ran a Torrance Press classified ad Thursday to advertise a three-bedroom house for rent, she was just swamped with calls.

She said she received a dozen calls within a short time after the papers were delivered.

"I rented it right away," she said.

If you have something to rent, buy, sell or swap, call a Torrance Press ad taker at FA 8-2345, for quick results.

Emergency Flood Aid Requested

Emergency action to solve flooding in the Hollywood Riviera section of Torrance will be requested of the City Council Tuesday.

A letter from John Popovich asserted that children could possibly be drowned, emergency vehicles are unable to enter the area on Paseo de Gracia, and that a number of homes would have been inundated had the storm lasted another 20 minutes.

Another demand for immediate action came from E. S. Calahan, president of the Hollywood Riviera Community Association, which claims that flood waters originating in Torrance have caused damage to the clubhouse.



PROBE STORY—Lt. D. C. Cook, left, and Officer Leo Gonzales of the Torrance police juvenile bureau, examine guns taken from two teenagers who are in custody pending a probe that they and others used a boy on a raft as a target for their gun practice. —Press photo

Hero in Flooding Honored

Policeman Bill Winther, 34, who assumed the role of the Little Dutch Boy who stuck his finger in the dyke, will be one of several Torrance officers to receive letters of commendation for their work in Tuesday's flood.

"Everybody who performed above the call of duty during the storm and afterwards until conditions were brought under control will be commended," said Assistant Police Chief Hank Porter.

Channel Dive Winther averted possible serious flood threats to homes in the vicinity of Crenshaw Blvd. and 187th St. when he dived into Dominguez Channel to assist in hoisting a car out of it.

The machine clogged the flow in the flood control channel, causing danger of it overflowing its banks.

The brand new car, with only 240 miles registered on the speedometer, was submerged in water with only its top showing.

The driver, Lou Zimring, of 3217 Pacific Coast Highway, had apparently mistook the channel for part of the Crenshaw roadway, police speculated.

Driver Rescued He was rescued by a telephone company repairman, who threw a line down to him.

When Winther and his partner, Jerry Snyder, arrived on the scene, Zimring had left and the officers did not know whether anyone was still trapped inside the submerged vehicle.

Winther jumped in and checked. Then he jumped in again, this time to attach hooks to the bumpers in order that tow trucks could pull the machine out.

As soon as the car was lifted out, the water level in the channel receded by a foot.

and accuracy. They range in difficulty from guessing weights and volumes to analytical problems.

Representatives from North High are in the process of improving their skills in order to compete with students from over 100 high schools in the Southern California area.

Plan Board Allows Woman to Keep Cheetah And One Ocelot

The finer points of defining a "cat" will be left up to the City Council at their March 4 meeting after the Planning Commission dumped the question in their laps Wednesday.

The planners voted to grant Mrs. Joseph Giacinto, of 2715 W. 178th St., permission to keep one of her two ocelots and her cheetah.

The commission made its ruling despite a tentative legal opinion by City Attorney Stanley Remelmeier that the animals can not be classified as domestic cats under the city ordinance.

Mrs. Giacinto argued that her animals are perfectly tame, and backed up her point by producing a letter from the county museum.

The letter said cheetahs and ocelots are not considered dangerous animals, that they are reasonably tame and that they can be trained as house pets.

The commission ruling, which specifies that Mrs. Giacinto may not replace the animals in the event of death, will now go to the City Council for final action.

Mrs. Giacinto appeared before the commission after she was notified by Planning Director

Raft Boy Used as Target

Two boys were held while Torrance juvenile officers are checking out a story that they used another boy as a floating target for their gun practice.

Lt. D. C. Cook, head of the juvenile bureau, said that he is still checking the facts of a story told by a 12-year-old, that he was shot at while riding on a raft in a swamp area near the Dow Chemical Company, near Crenshaw Blvd. and 203rd st.

The two juveniles held by police had a 20 gauge shotgun and a .22 rifle in their possession, which they hid when officers collared them.

Two or three other boys, allegedly involved in the incident, escaped.

"The others ran like rabbits," Cook said.

According to the weird story, some of the older boys placed the victim on a raft. When he was some distance from shore, the teenagers fired their guns around him, apparently without trying to actually hit him.

Cook said his men found no ammunition for the rifle, but that the shotgun was loaded when it was found in its hiding place.

Police said that further investigation disclosed that one of the boys in custody had stolen an auto Feb. 16, driven it to a vacant field near Del Amo Blvd. and Arlington Ave., and fired shotgun shells at it before he set fire to it.

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