

First Storm of Season Brings Floods, Damage Here

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Detectives Talk Armed Youth into Surrendering

Teenage Burglary Suspect Threatens Police With Gun

A 15-year-old burglary suspect, sought for several days, was captured Monday evening after allegedly threatening to shoot two Torrance policemen.

The youth and four teenage companions nabbed a few minutes later are suspected of committing at least eight North Torrance burglaries.

Lt. D. C. Cook and Sgt. Don Hamilton managed to talk the youthful suspect into tossing away his .22 caliber automatic pistol which he pointed at the two officers who had stalked out in his hideaway for two hours.

Cook and Hamilton waited inside a rumpus room at 3216 W. 180th St. until the youth, a North High School student, returned and climbed through a window.

Police were called to the scene by Mrs. Stephen Welsh, owner of the home and detached rumpus room, after she discovered that someone had stayed there unknown to her. She also found nearly \$100 in a leather bag and called police.

Cook said that officers had been looking for the teenager throughout the weekend following numerous reports of burglaries.

The two officers shined their flashlight beams into the youth's eyes, and finally persuaded him to drop the gun.

Later they discovered that the gun was unloaded.

While Cook held the youth, Hamilton stopped a car containing two other boys and girls outside the house. A search disclosed that all of them had silver dollars, allegedly stolen in a wave of North Torrance burglaries.

Cook said that the armed youth was apparently getting ready to leave Torrance in company with the other teenagers who were from Compton, but themselves former Torrance residents.

In the home of Adam J. Hoffman, of 3325 W. 183rd St., he left a chicken bone on the rug, after taking approximately \$4. Apparently unhappy over not finding any cash in the home of Edward J. Suhr, 18431 Falda Ave., he hurled an egg against the livingroom wall, police reported.

Biggest cash haul was made from the house of Benjamin Mase, 17813 Glenburn Ave. where more than \$200 was taken. A .22 caliber rifle was taken.

(Continued on page 18)

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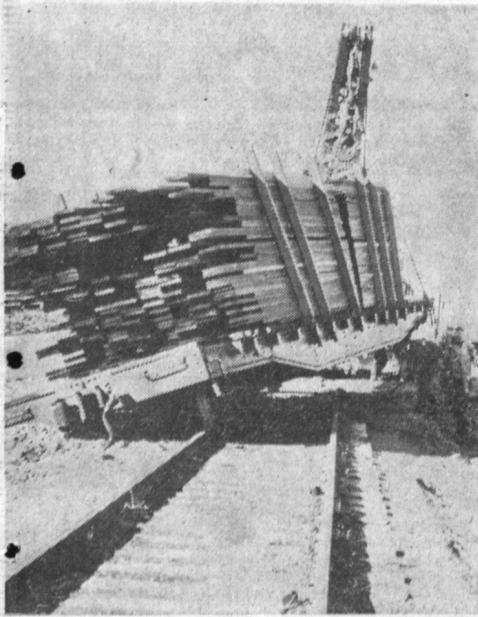
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TRAIN WRECK—This flatcar, carrying a load of lumber, was flipped on its side following a derailment on the tracks parallel to Madrona Ave. near Del Amo Blvd. Monday night. Railroad investigators said that sand spilled on tracks by trucks caused car to derail. The brakeman, who was riding the car, jumped off in time and no injuries were reported.—Press Photo

Dry Spell Broken by Rainstorm

More photos on pages 2, 5

The long awaited first storm of the season dumped 1.68 inches of rain here Monday night, causing floods and damage.

A landslide, just north of the razed Hollywood Riviera Club caused tons of dirt to slide into the ocean near the place where a new storm drain is being installed.

The land under the Esplanade walkway was undermined and slipped into the ocean, apparently caused by the storm.

STREETS FLOODED
Several streets were flooded, and fire damaged three power poles near Crenshaw and Torrance Blvds. The storm also caused several burglar alarms to go off.

With only a few traces of rain recorded so far this season, the storm brought the only measurable amount to date. At this time last year, 4.47 inches of rain were reported.

Trees were blown down on 238th St. between Ash and Eschelman Aves. and in front of 1755 W. 257th St., Lomita.

FLOOD CONDITIONS
Reports of flooded conditions were received at Pacific Coast Highway and Janet Lane, on 182nd St. between Falda and Faysmith Aves., at 164th St. and Crenshaw Blvd. on Linda Vista in the 200 block and at 180th St. and Regina Ave., police reported.

A storm drain plugged up on Ansier St. just east of Crenshaw Blvd. causing a flood in front of the Horkey Moore plant. Two men in a rowboat, Bob Taylor and Richard Ruzecki, attempted to clear the drain all Tuesday morning.

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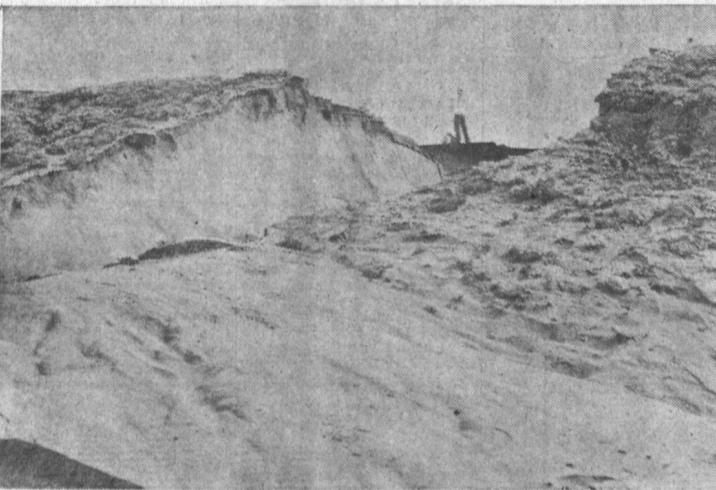
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SLIPPAGE—The embankment just north of the razed Hollywood Riviera Club came tumbling down Tuesday morning following a storm which lasted through the night. Jerry Nichols, a resident, surveys the slide area located just north of the new Hollywood Riviera storm drain.—Press Photo



SLIGHTLY WET—Auto is surrounded by flood water on steep roller-coaster section of Henrietta St., just north of Torrance Blvd.—Press Photo

Torrance Refineries Face Strike by Oil Workers

Torrance oil workers will take a strike vote Jan. 19, preparatory to a threatened walkout scheduled for Feb. 1.

Richard T. Baurman, secretary-treasurer of Local 1-519, Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers International Union, said that his organization represents workers employed by the General Petroleum Corp., Chanslor-Western Oil and Development Co. and American Bitumals Co.

Long Beach Local 1-128 will also take a strike vote among employees of the Shell and Union Oil Cos. both of which have facilities in Torrance.

Approximately 8000 workers in the Los Angeles Basin including 1000 in Torrance, are involved in the national negotiations.

Baurman said that negotiations have been carried on fruitlessly for nine months and most contracts will expire Feb. 1. He said that strike votes have already been taken in Eastern and Gulf States and that local unions are following the national pattern.

The union official said that the workers are offering two alternate proposals. One is a three-year contract with an annual improvement factor as well as cost-of-living clauses, fully paid medical care, improvement on termination allowances and a clause for a shorter work week in case of severe lay-off. He estimated total cost of this after three years at between 40 and 45 cents per hour.

The other plan calls for a one-year contract with a 25 cents per hour increase. He said the average hourly wage now is \$2.65.



GEORGE NAYLOR

G. Naylor to Head Merchants

George Naylor, owner of Torrance Hardware, was elected president of the Downtown Retail Merchants Division of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce, it was announced this week.

Paul VaKay of VaKay Yardage was elected vice-president of the Retail group and Vern Lovelady of Lovelady Hardware was elected secretary-treasurer.

Directors include Leonard Barron, Karl's Shoe Stores; Paul Diamond, The Gay Shop; Carl Duncan, Trend O' Fashion; Sam Levy, Levy Department Store; Del Nadeau, Allen Jewelers; J. H. Paget, J. J. Newberry's; Darwin Parrish, Parrish Stationers; Abe Robinson, Lawson's Jewelers; James Squire, Squire Style Shoppe; and O. R. Trueblood, McMahon's Furniture Store.

Naylor was born in Larimore, North Dakota, and came to California in 1942 and to Torrance late in 1954.

The new merchant leader is a member of the Board of Directors of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce and lives with his wife, Violette, at 422 Palos Verdes Blvd. in Torrance.

BANK EMPLOYEES DONATE
California Bank employees in Torrance have pledged to contribute nearly \$750, to the support of Torrance health and community welfare charitable organizations during the year as a result of the recently concluded AID-United Givers membership enrollment drive at the bank.

Lomita Chamber Installs Officer

New officers of the Lomita Chamber of Commerce will be installed at a dinner meeting in the Wayfarer's Restaurant tomorrow at 7:30 p.m.

Supervisor Burton W. Chace will be honored by the Chamber for his cooperation in the area, Dr. Warren H. Low, outgoing president, said.

Henry G. Mathews, incoming president, and other new officers will meet Wednesday to discuss plans for the coming year.

EXHIBIT EXPANDED
Arrangements have been completed at the Los Angeles County Museum to accommodate the large number of visitors to the current Vincent van Gogh Exhibition, which closes on January 18.

STEAL DIAMOND RING
A \$125 diamond ring was stolen from the home of Mrs. Hil-dred Davis, 2269 W. 223rd St., while she was away for the holidays, she reported to police.

Overpass Cost Estimate Hiked

Torrance's share of a pedestrian overpass at Pacific Coast Highway in front of South High School will be nearly \$6000 higher than the first estimate by the State.

The city budgeted \$16,333 as its one-third share of the cost, with the balance to be paid by the State and Torrance Unified School District.

Each of the participating three agencies will now have to pay a share of \$22,000.

School Additions Sought

Bids for 12 classroom additions at four elementary schools and a cafeteria kitchen addition at another school will be let soon, the Torrance School Board decided Tuesday night. Estimated cost of the work will be about \$500,000.

Final plans and specifications were approved, and bids will be sought as soon as final approval is received from the State Department of Finance.

Edison, Steele, and Madrona Schools will get four more classrooms. Madrona also will get a new music room. At WALTERIA School, plans call for six more classrooms, a kindergarten classroom, shop and homemaking unit, and an addition to the administration building.

Construction of a cafeteria kitchen at Torrance Elementary School also is included in the bid. The cafeteria will be attached to the auditorium.

Commissioners Given New Terms
Two city commissioners will start new four-year terms on Jan. 15, following their reappointments by Mayor Albert Isen.

Ross Sciarotta, chairman of the Civil Service Commission, whose terms have been cut from six to four years, was named to another term on that board, while Rev. Milton Sippel was reappointed to a term on the Park and Recreation Commission.

A New Auditorium

AN EDITORIAL

With the new year just getting under way, this might be a good time to propose that the city consider a major step to solve the lack of recreational facilities here.

One major contribution that could be made will be the construction of a new and practical Civic Auditorium in the Civic Center, on land that has been reserved for such a purpose.

The present auditorium, completed in 1936 as a WPA project at Cravens Ave. and El Prado, was a proud achievement when the Torrance population was around 10,000, but it no longer serves the purpose of a city of 10 times that number.

Its very size, a seating capacity of 845, makes the building too large and too small at the same time.

On occasions when accommodations for larger crowds are needed, organizations have to go out of town to find facilities. By the same token, smaller groups find the auditorium too huge and feel uncomfortable meeting in the "barn-like" atmosphere.

What is needed is a multi-purpose building that can be partitioned if used by smaller groups and can be converted into a large building by removing the partitions.

Some cities of Torrance's size, and even smaller ones, furnish a top rate program for teenagers, using their auditoriums for various types of wholesome recreation programs for young people as well as adults.

In Torrance, teenagers who want to hold a dance don't like to use the auditorium because of its barn-like atmosphere, and the building certainly does not receive much use.

The city would be wiser, in our opinion, to sell the property for commercial development, which not only brings in sales tax but would put the property back on the tax rolls, and start planning an adequate, modern auditorium in the civic center, where provision has been made for plenty of parking space.



THE PRESENT CIVIC AUDITORIUM

FIND PURSE

The handbag was found Sunday at the corner of Pacific Coast Highway and Crenshaw Blvd. by Officer Sam Piazza. It had been stripped of any money it might

VISITS PARENTS

Mr. and Mrs. Alton Nigh, of 2006 W. 180th St. spent Christmas with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Alton Nigh of Inglewood.