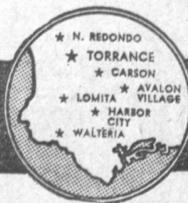


Accusations Hurlled in Beauty Contest Cancellation



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Backyard Airplane Crash Starts Probe



SCENE OF CRASH—Photo shows path of plane as it crashed in residential neighborhood Friday afternoon. Holes in roof of home can be seen in foreground. To the right shows shattered greenhouse in yard where Mrs. Pearl Riggies was injured. Plane continued, ripping wing off on power line and finally coming to rest in backyard at 2071 Middlebrook Road.

Pilot Crashes Near Home

The crash of a private plane in a backyard 100 yards from the pilot's own home Friday afternoon was under investigation by police and FAA officials today.

Aubrey Devenish, 41, of 2098 Middlebrook Rd., the pilot, was released from Torrance Memorial Hospital hours after he was taken there for checkup of possible head injuries.

Mrs. Pearl Riggies, 2042 Kathy Way, was treated for a scalp wound in a doctor's office. She was struck by either flying glass or an airplane part while seated in her backyard.

Police said Devenish, a veteran pilot, told them that his wife, Josephine, was suing him for divorce, and he was taking the plane to India in order to sell it.

The pilot was quoted by investigators as saying that an object crashed through his windshield, blowing out the glass. Officers said the throttle of the plane had been closed off when the engine switch turned off when they found the plane, indicating that the plane had been readied for a landing.

Witnesses told police the engine had been operating under power just before it crashed in the residential area.

Hits Wire

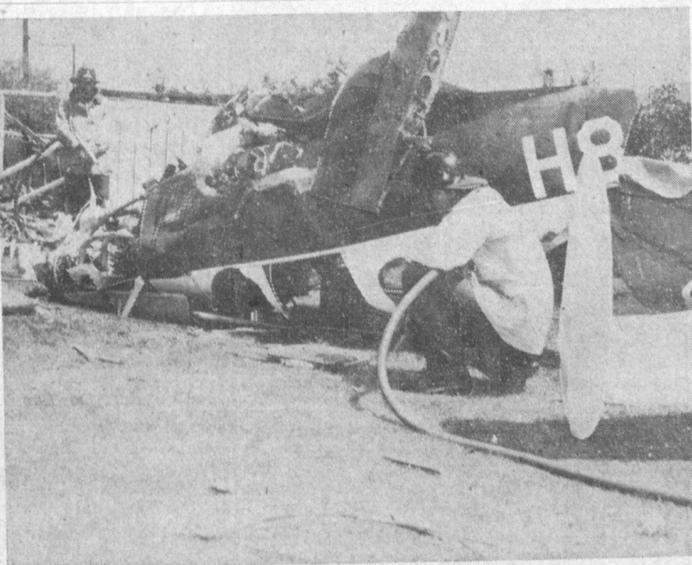
The light, single engine plane first struck a power line on Kathy Way, knocked a hole into the roof of the home of J. W. Crew, 2036 Kathy Way, snapping a power line in the rear yard, causing a wing to fall off, and the fuselage came to rest in the backyard of a home at 2071 Middlebrook Rd. The owner, T. W. Williamson, was not home at the time.

"I heard the crash and just went over to see what was going on and found my own husband," said Mrs. Devenish while awaiting results of x-rays in the hospital.

She said her husband is an "excellent" pilot and had been a Navy flyer during World War II. He has 20 years' experience. Devenish is an electronic engineer at Nortronics.

Loud Crash

Mrs. Elizabeth Johnson, of 2024 (Continued on page six)



PLANE WRECKAGE—Fireman stands ready for explosion of plane which crashed into backyard Friday afternoon. Pilot and a resident were injured. The pilot lives less than 100 yards from scene of crash. —Press Photo.

Charges Hurlled Over Failure of Torrance Beauty Contest

A raging controversy over blame for the failure of the Miss Torrance beauty contest erupted this week between the former and the present sponsors.

James Van Dyck, director of the Torrance Area Youth Band, which had sponsored the pageant for the past six years, angrily countered a statement that lack of interest in the contest resulted from last year's delays.

"We resent your cowardly and nasty remarks," he wrote in a letter to Bob Vroman, acting committee chairman of the Junior Chamber of Commerce, this year's sponsors.

Resents Remark

What accused Van Dyck's furor, was a published statement by Vroman in which he was quoted as saying, "It seems the girls have been dissatisfied with the way past Torrance beauty contests have been conducted."

The peppery bandmaster termed this remark "a lie and impresses no one who knows what's been going on."

He called on Vroman to make a public apology "to the many well respected people of our community who like the way we run our youth organization."

Three Entries

This year's contest, designed as a preliminary to the Miss California and Miss America pageants, was called "off Tuesday by the Jaycees after only three girls entered by deadline time Monday afternoon.

Vroman said he did not know exactly why the pageant failed to attract more entries, since scholarships and other prizes as well as a chance to compete in the Miss California event were offered the winner.

One of the reasons cited for the fiasco was that the contest was postponed three times last year while it was still sponsored by the Youth Band. It was finally conducted in December by the Chamber of Commerce in an abbreviated ceremony.

Defends Record

Van Dyck defended the past record of the pageant while it was still under the Youth Band sponsorship.

"Because of a number of loyal and interested merchants, the Youth Band managed to break even, in terms of finance, during the past six years of our sponsorship. In many other ways, however, our contests could be called successful."

He explained that the event always drew from 14 to 25 applicants, and that a clean, wholesome program was conducted to large audiences in the Civic Auditorium.

He said that the 1955 winner became Miss California and a runner-up in the Miss Universe contest.

Blames Competition

Van Dyck also blamed competition with other beauty contests in Torrance.

"Last year, just before our scheduled pageant, there were three different beauty contests staged by publicity seeking neophytes in the City of Torrance. All three were labeled 'Miss Torrance' Queen contests."

He said the girls didn't get disinterested, they got confused, and said his event was postponed because there were no adequate facilities during Rancho Days when the contest was to be staged originally.

ATTENDS BASIC

Army Pvt. Robert R. Eichman, son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Eichman, 20519 Kenwood Ave., is attending basic training at Ft. Ord.

Manhunt Nets Two Burglars

Two burglary suspects were captured in a yard to yard manhunt Friday morning after a search by five policemen.

The hunt began when Officer Harry Owens noticed that the pair was prying off a telephone from a booth at 237th St. and Arlington Ave., and the suspects fled.

Owens, reinforced by Officers Don Hartel, Phillip Joseph, E. T. Lloyd and Ray Grose, chased the men through numerous backyards until they finally cornered them in a vacant field at Crenshaw Blvd. and 235th St., approximately a mile from the phone booth.

Booked on suspicion of burglary were Jerry Lee Allen, 22, of 1922 Reynosa Drive, a carpenter, and Larry Sam Carter, 21, of 3424 W 187th St., unemployed.

Officers said that when they searched the suspects' car, abandoned near the phone booth, they found a bowling ball, checkbook, watch, wallet and clothing reported stolen earlier from the auto of Theodore Herbst of Los Angeles, while it was parked in a lot at Pacific Coast Highway near Hawthorne Blvd.

Officers said that when they searched the suspects' car, abandoned near the phone booth, they found a bowling ball, checkbook, watch, wallet and clothing reported stolen earlier from the auto of Theodore Herbst of Los Angeles, while it was parked in a lot at Pacific Coast Highway near Hawthorne Blvd.

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Driver Held for Trial on Manslaughter

The driver of a car in which his stepdaughter was killed earlier this month was held for trial on manslaughter charges following his preliminary hearing before Municipal Judge Otto B. Willett Friday.

Jerry Mullins, 26, of 12620 S. Figueroa St., Los Angeles, will be arraigned in Inglewood Superior Court May 15. His bail was continued at \$1500.

Judge Willett dismissed felony drunk driving charges against the mechanic on grounds he was unconscious when an alcohol blood sample was taken from him by police.

The crash, in which Shannon Lucille Tillotson, 7, was killed and six others injured, occurred April 3 on Sepulveda Blvd., near Maple Ave.

One witness, Lynn Hyde, a Torrance High School student, estimated speed of Mullins' car at 75 m.p.h. just before the crash, when she testified at the preliminary hearing.

Linda Tucker and Patsy Russell, two passengers in the defendant's car who received serious injuries, also testified.

Mullins car reportedly crashed into another vehicle while he was passing a third vehicle at high speed.

Dining Set Sold Fast with Press Classified Ad

Mrs. Linden Constock, 3327 Dalemead St., had no problem selling her blond dropleaf table and dining chairs as well as a television set.

She merely inserted a classified ad in the Torrance Press, and presto, she sold it for the price she asked.

If you have something to sell, rent or buy, call a Torrance Press ad-taker at FA 8-2345, and let her help you with your advertising problem.

Ruptured Pipe Line Floods Farm House, Drowns Animals

A shower of mud and water inundated a farm house Thursday morning when the main water feeder line between Los Angeles and San Pedro ruptured east of Torrance.

Police said the powerful surge was unleashed when a gate valve on a 31-inch line broke on the east side of Normandie Ave. south of 190th St., gushing 1000 gallons per minute.

The tide ripped a 100-foot-long, 25-foot-wide hole in the earth and flooded the home of Bonnie Mitchell, 19506 S. Normandie Ave.

Mitchell said at the height of the flood, more than a foot of muddy water covered the floor of his farm house. He and his family, wife, Anna, and the children, Herbert, 17, Grace, 15, Ruth, 10 and Jack, 9, worked feverishly to save their furniture.

Crews of the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, deputy sheriffs and police worked for more than two hours to shut off the water, while 30-foot geysers showered them with water.

Mitchell said he lost eight shoots, six pheasants and 46 chickens from drownings.

Lay-offs Made at Plant

Lay-off of 750 employees of the Douglas Aircraft, El Segundo, Division started Friday and will continue this weekend.

Of this number, approximately 150 from the Torrance plant will be affected, company spokesmen said.

Approximately 450 persons were released Friday, with the remainder to be terminated this Friday, according to H. G. Hynd, vice president and general manager of the El Segundo division.

He said the lay-offs are part of a previous announced program to keep the work force in line with contract requirements.

Total employment at the division will be approximately 16,500 after the lay-off and a further decline is anticipated through 1959, Hynd said.

Police Hunt Southwood Cat Burglar

Police continued search for a "cat burglar" who sneaked into six Southwood homes earlier this week while their occupants were sleeping.

The stealthy thief entered through unlocked front and rear doors in all cases and appeared mostly interested in cash.

Burnett B. Ferguson, of 22322 Charlotte Ave., a teacher, first became aware of the thefts, when he found a wallet belonging to Arthur J. Fletcher, of 4910 Mindora Drive, an engineer, on his front lawn.

Then Ferguson noticed that his \$50 watch had been stolen out of his own home. Fletcher's wallet contained only 60 cents.

John B. Schnepf, of 22427 Eilenwood Drive, reported the theft of his wallet, containing only photos, but later found the billfold across the street.

Louise H. Schmidt, of 5127 Milne Drive, said that \$4 was removed from her purse. A \$1000 wedding ring set and a clock disappeared from the home of Philip Nicholson, of 22236 Reynolds Dr., he told police.

Pete Valenzuela, of 4615 Moresby Dr., said that his slacks and wallet had been stolen from his house. He later found the billfold, but not the pants.

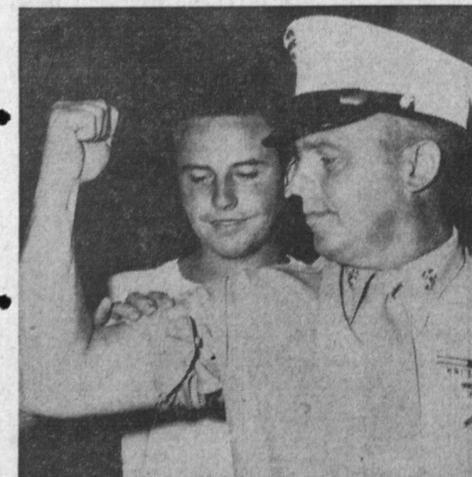
Teresa Terrones, 7, of 18804 Roslin Ave., was treated at South Bay Medical Center, Wednesday, after she was struck by an auto at 182nd St. and Ashley Ave., police said.

Officers said that the driver took the girl home and then left. His identity is unknown.

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YOU'RE PRETTY FIT—That's what Rodney Strowbridge tells Sgt. Ernest Hayes, who will be one of the three Marines helping Torrance coaches give fitness tests to local high school students this week as part of "Youth Fitness Week" activities. Marine fitness tests will be given at Torrance High Wednesday, North High on Thursday and South High on Friday.

High School Students to Turn Leathernecks

The Marines are scheduled to land at Torrance's three high schools this week—to help local boys compare their physical fitness with that of the "fighting leathernecks."

As part of "Youth Fitness Week," Torrance Schools and the Marines are cooperating to give a series of five fitness tests to students in physical education classes. Tests will be given Wednesday at Torrance High; Thursday at North High; and Friday at South High.

President Eisenhower has proclaimed May 3-9 as "Youth Fitness Week," urging increased emphasis on health and fitness of all American youth.

In their P.E. classes, boys will take the same series of five tests—push-ups, pull-ups, squat jumps, set-ups and 300-yard run—which Marines must pass four times a year. The Marines must pass with a 40 per cent score.

Helping local coaches administer the tests will be Capt. Thom-

Municipal Garage Transfer Okayed

Jurisdiction of the city garage was transferred from the bus to the public works department by the City Council.

"Somebody's got to straighten this out," Councilman George Bradford declared.

Turning to Wade E. Peebles, new public works chief, he complimented him.