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# Brush Blaze Blame Points to Fireworks



**SMOKE SCREEN**—Torrance firemen battle works were suspected of setting the blaze, which grass fire which broke out 100 yards north of city hall Thursday. Children playing with fireworks were suspected of setting the blaze, which was put out in short time. —Press Photo

## Cyclist Injured in Crash

His crash helmet was credited by doctors as saving the life of a motorcyclist who was seriously injured in a spill at Hawthorne Blvd. and Spencer St. Thursday morning.

Archie Gilbertson, 60, was tossed 18 feet from his motorcycle after he lost control of his machine while trying to avoid striking a car which had made a U-turn in front of him, police said.

The mechanic of 4339 W. 168th St., Lawndale, was taken to Harbor General Hospital where he was treated for a concussion, possible skull fracture and a deep scalp cut.

The crash helmet he wore was "cracked like an egg shell," a police investigator said.

A physician at Harbor General Hospital said that the helmet probably saved Gilbertson's life.

The vehicle which made a sharp turn in front of the motorcycle took off from the scene of the accident.

## Youth Attacked by Gang

A man was treated for scalp wounds he said he received in an unprovoked assault by a gang of youths Thursday night.

Remigio Grande, 22, of Gardena, said he was riding in a car with two Torrance youths when they were suddenly forced over to the curb by another car near Arlington Ave. and 220th St.

Grande told police that five or six youths hopped out of the other vehicle and one of them struck him over the head with a bottle. After the assault the others went back to their car and drove off.

With Grande at the time were Jesus L. Grejada, 2276 W. 203rd St., and his brother, Juan, 20832 Margareta St., police said.

## Opposition Dropped in Buffer Case

A proposed zone change which will create a 100-foot buffer strip on the south side of Monterey St., was approved by the Planning Commission Wednesday.

There was no opposition to the rezoning which was asked by residents north of Monterey St. to give them a buffer between their homes and industry to the south.

Only exception was an office building to be constructed by the R. C. Mahon steel fabricating plant within the buffer area.

The commission's recommendation will go to the City Council for a third and final hearing, expected to be set for July 28.

Alan Moore, spokesman for the home owners presented a petition containing the names of 150 persons, who agreed to the buffer zone.

Residents demanded in earlier actions that they be separated by the wider buffer rather than a 50-foot strip.

## Pair Promoted

Gordon A. Klett and Jack L. Earley have been elected assistant vice-presidents of Glendale Federal Savings and Loan Association, according to J. E. Hoeff, president and founder.

Earley will take on duties as manager of the Glendale office of Glendale Federal Savings; Klett will become manager of the forthcoming El Monte office, which the association will open within the next few months.

## LOMITA BUILDING

Building permits with a valuation of \$1,587,436 were issued in June by the Lomita office of the County Building Department. Of the total, \$630,140 was for residential construction.



**YOUNG PATRIOTS**—An American Flag parade is planned by Mrs. Laverne Swagles' kindergarten-first grade class at Perry Elementary School at a school assembly program tomorrow. Each class in the summer session will show other classes what they are studying. The small children here will march with the flags, led by Teresa Bentcourt and Stephen Hadley.

## Flag Parade Highlights Perry Special Assembly

Summer school students at Perry Elementary School will take time out from their studies Monday to present programs for their fellow students at an assembly.

Some of the activities which arose out of social studies or reading units will be presented. On a patriotic note, Mrs. LaVerne Swagles' kindergarten and first grade class will present an American flag parade.

Miss Marjorie Carey's first and second graders will have an art exhibit, demonstrating what they have learned about trains. Musical numbers are planned by Robert Swillings' second and third graders, while American folk songs will be sung by Robert Dunbar's third, fourth, and fifth graders. America's newest state inspired Mrs. Joanne Horn's fifth, sixth, and seventh graders to present Hawaiian dances.

## New Proposition on Airport Site Lease Offered

Councilmen agreed to listen to another proposition on the lease of a nine-acre parcel at Torrance Municipal Airport, but several members wanted others interested in the property to be given an opportunity to make bids of their own.

Request for an option on the site at Crenshaw Blvd. and Pacific Coast Hwy. was made by Tio Vivo, one of three prospective developers who had previously bid on the lease.

The firm's proposition will be discussed Tuesday at 5:15 p.m.

## Retirement Boost

A boost in cost of city employee retirement program will be in excess of \$55,000 this year.

City Manager George Stevens last week warned that neighboring cities have been hit by huge increases, and that provision for the additional expense must be made in the budget.

## Seek Landscaping of City Parkway

Request that the city place landscaping in the parkway on the south side of Sepulveda Blvd. between Palos Verdes Blvd. and Leyte St., will be made to the City Council Tuesday.

A petition signed by 28 residents said that "it has been six years since it has been developed and we think it's about time that something is done."

The petition was sent to the city by Mr. and Mrs. Willis Smith, 5036 Sepulveda Blvd.

## New Lights

Installation of traffic control signals with highway safety lighting at four intersections has been completed in the Dominguez area, Supervisor Burton W. Chace announced.

Three of the signals are on Main St. at 220th, 223rd and 228th Sts., and the fourth at Sepulveda and Panama Ave.

## CRENSHAW WORK STARTS

Work has been started on the paving of a two-lane roadway on Crenshaw Blvd. from Crest Road to approximately 2100 feet south, Supervisor Burton W. Chace announced.



**WHEN IN ROME**—Jill Gish, 10, offers a bunch of grapes to Mike Gutsch, 15, who reclines in toga and other ancient garb in celebration of "Roman Holidays," to be observed at Torrance play areas during next two weeks.

## Blazes Scorch Fields

Possibility that children with firecrackers caused a grass fire on civic center property Thursday, is being investigated by fire department inspectors.

The blaze followed by a day the dump fire battled by smokeeaters for six hours before it was brought under control Wednesday night.

A third fire broke out in a sandblasting machine in the National Supply Co. foundry Thursday morning. Four fire trucks under direction of Chief J. J. Benner extinguished the blaze in short time.

Apparently the rubber lining in the machine ignited and the fire spread to an evaporator belt. Company firemen had the situation under control by the time the city firemen arrived at the scene.

Wednesday's city dump fire shot flames high up in the air and spread to grass on the east, burning an area all the way to Maple Ave. Heavy winds kept causing the fire to leap-frog the bone-dry area.

Street department personnel was pressed into service by firemen to help control the dump fire. It was finally extinguished by a combination of water-spraying and bulldozing with machinery.

The grass fire about 100 yards north of the city hall broke out early afternoon Thursday and was brought quickly under control.

Firemen said it could have been set by juveniles with fireworks.

## U. S. Steel Plant to Close for Vacation Time

Torrance Works of United States Steel's Columbia-Geneva Steel Division will be shut down for a vacation period, July 12 through July 25, with the mill's open hearth department remaining on vacation through August 1.

With the exception of minimum crews in the maintenance, shipping and industrial relations departments, all wage, salaried and management employees will take their annual vacations at this time.

The 22-inch rolling mill is scheduled to close down at midnight, July 10, and resume operations at 8 a.m., July 27.

The 12-inch rolling mill is scheduled to close down at midnight, July 11, and start up at 8 a.m., July 26.

The open hearth department will be shut down from midnight, July 12, to 12:01 a.m. Aug. 2.

The Torrance mill has a total employment of about 800 employees.

## Roman Holidays Observed at City Parks, Playgrounds

Fun in the manner of both ancient and modern Rome will keynote many of the special events planned during the next two weeks at parks and playgrounds operated by the Torrance Recreation Dept.

There will be 59 B.C. style banquets and 1959 A.D. type spaghetti feeds with craft sessions, games and contests to match.

Here is the special events schedule:

El Nido—Coliseum field day, 2 p.m., Wednesday; harbor cruise, Tuesday; discus throw, 1 p.m. Monday; Roman festival, 1 p.m. Friday; watermelon feed, 1 p.m. Thursday; nature hike, 10 a.m. Tuesday.

WALTERIA — Pizza feed, 12:30 p.m. Wednesday.

McMaster — Chariot bicycle races and Roman festival, 2 p.m., July 16; family night, 8 p.m., Thursday.

Sea Aire—Costume parade and chariot races, July 13; field events, July 14; track events, July 15.

Torrance—Roman crafts, Monday and Friday, 10 a.m.; spaghetti feed 1 p.m. Wednesday; Roman games 1 p.m. Friday.

## Construction Boom Tops \$4 Million Mark During June

Torrance recorded its biggest construction boom in 18 months during June when permits for \$4,198,800 in valuation were issued here.

This figure could be topped during July if several major industrial projects now nearing the groundbreaking stage are submitted for permits, Building Superintendent Lee Schless said.

These could include the first phase of the Garrett Corp. Air-search plant on 190th St. between Crenshaw Blvd. and Arlington Ave., a medical center at Hawthorne Blvd. and Carson St., the R. C. Mahon steel fabricating plant, and the Magnavox factory in the Santa Fe tract.

**Ahead of 1958**

June building compares with \$1,169,717 for the same month last year.

For the first half on 1959 Torrance is more than \$1,700,000 ahead of 1958, with \$14,960,453 issued for the year to date, compared with \$13,838,794 for the six-month period in 1958.

Last year's figures included the record \$7,000,000 of permits issued during January of that year alone.

Of last month's 271 permits, 111 single family houses accounted for \$1,624,900. There were 71 apartment house units, \$583,600; 13 commercial structures, \$342,740, and eight industrial buildings, \$1,209,600.

**Industrial Plants**

Of the industrial permits, Kentile accounted for \$925,000, Bebold Industries, \$50,500, and Thiem Industries at 1918 W. 174 St., \$100,800.

Plans were submitted Tuesday for first of two medical buildings to be constructed on Del Amo Estates property on Hawthorne Blvd. between Carson St. and Torrance Blvd.

The \$500,000 building will contain 30,000 square feet of floor space and 22 suites. Jones, Locket and Poper are the architects on the project. A second medical building of similar size is planned later.

The company is also planning an office building at the northeast corner of Hawthorne Blvd. and Carson St., a company spokesman said.

Air-search plans to construct a two story plant on 190th St. and a six-story office building. Eventually the company will occupy in excess of 1,000,000 square feet of floor space.

## Parking Meters to Stay

Better merchandising, rather than removal of parking meters, is the answer to improving business in downtown Torrance.

That was the opinion Tuesday of Mayor Albert Isen in commenting on a request to declare a moratorium on parking meters.

The request was made by George Binder, a major property owner, who said that he originally favored installation of the meters, but has changed his mind, due to competition by adjacent shopping centers, which provide free parking.

Isen said that there is no street parking in downtown Los Angeles, but business has come back to the area.

"A nickel is a pretty cheap price to pay for parking," he said.

The mayor also asserted that even if the meters are removed, time parking restrictions would still have to be maintained and motorists would still receive tickets.

Councilman Robert Jahn added that the city is still paying for off-street lots from parking meter revenue.

Binder's request was filed without further action.

## Sales Tax Here Shows Huge Hike

Despite the common wail of "recession" in 1958, retail sales in Torrance increased \$8,806,000 over 1957 to reach an all time high of \$74,487,000. This information was revealed by the Torrance Chamber of Commerce's second economic survey, based on exclusive copyrighted estimates of Sales Management, the magazine of marketing, and the Chamber records.

The tremendous increase of almost 9 million dollars of retail sales was highlighted by its increase in food store sales of close to 29 million dollars; an increase of over 4 million in one year.

Two significant features were pointed out by Chamber of Commerce President Fred W. Mill. One is that all but one of the nine retail store groups registered an increase in sales; and second that it finally appears that Torrance residents are spending a large portion of their income here. Explaining further, Mill pointed out that the effective buying income of Torrance residents rose to a staggering \$8,728,000 increase over the previous year.

One of the highlights of the survey revealed that Torrance is now the 5th largest city in Los Angeles County, the 12th largest in California, and it ranks 142nd largest in the entire nation.

Torrance's population represents .0566 of the total population of the United States. Included in this total are 28,200 householders, with an average buying income of \$6,332.

Copies of this survey, which includes a myriad of statistics, are available free of charge at the Torrance Chamber of Commerce office, 1511 Cravens Avenue.



**STITCH IN TIME**—Sailmaker A. H. Littleton is busy on a last-minute sewing chore, just before he left as a crew member of the schooner "Goodwill," largest vessel in the Honolulu Yacht Race. —Press Photo

## Torrance Sailmaker to Crew in Honolulu Yacht Race

A Torrance sailmaker is among the 61-member crew of the schooner "Goodwill" largest entry in the Honolulu Yacht Race which started from Los Angeles Harbor yesterday noon.

A. H. Littleton, of 2854 Onrado St., will be in the mid-ship crew which will be in charge of more than 25,000 square feet of sails.

The 161-foot schooner will be the largest vessel in the race, and Littleton expects that the trip will be completed in nine days or less to break the nine days, 11 hours and five minutes record made by the yacht "Morningstar," a 98-foot ketch.

Wives of the crew, including Mrs. Littleton, left for Hawaii by plane Wednesday.

The Littletons will return here July 25.

## Goodwill Envoy Guest at Konya Banquet Circuit

As Torrance's goodwill ambassador, he was given the full VIP treatment, Charles H. Wortham wrote Mayor Albert Isen this week.

The former mayor of Redondo Beach and his wife have been visiting Konya, Turkey, Torrance's sister city during a swing of the Middle East.

Wortham was furnished with a special resolution from the Torrance City Council designating him this city's special envoy.

He was the guest of two banquets given him by Konya city officials and the governor of the province, he wrote.

Wortham will return here July 10 to make a more detailed report.

## Police Lieutenant Resigns Post

Police Lt. Ted Morris, 10-year veteran of the Torrance department, resigned effective immediately Friday.

Police Chief Percy Bennett said that Morris informed him that he was leaving for another position.

Morris has been in charge of the records and identification bureau for the past year. He will be replaced in that capacity by Lt. D. C. Cook, Bennett said.