

Flu Bug Increases Shortage of Torrance Fire men

By KURT LIEPMAN
Two fire fighters protecting South Torrance. Population approximately 15,000.
Four firemen protecting North Torrance. Population nearly 40,000.
This seems like a slim number of men to depend on to fight fires. But that was the first-call manpower extent in these areas Tuesday.
And it was not an unusual day, although a spread of the flu took its toll in the city's fire

houses.
In all of Torrance, 23 fire fighters were on duty, including the rescue and salvage teams stationed at headquarters.
At the Waleria station, which protects South Torrance, including the potentially hazardous airport, it was a case of chiefs and no Indians. Reporting for duty there Tuesday was an acting captain, an engineer, and no hosemen.
The North Torrance station had its usual complement of

one captain, one engineer and two hosemen. These four men have the duty of protecting everything north of 190th St.
Three men were on duty in Hollywood Riviera.
"We're sitting here with our fingers crossed," declared Fire Chief J. J. Benner.
According to the firemen themselves, they have been darned lucky that no major blaze has occurred while they are as short-handed.

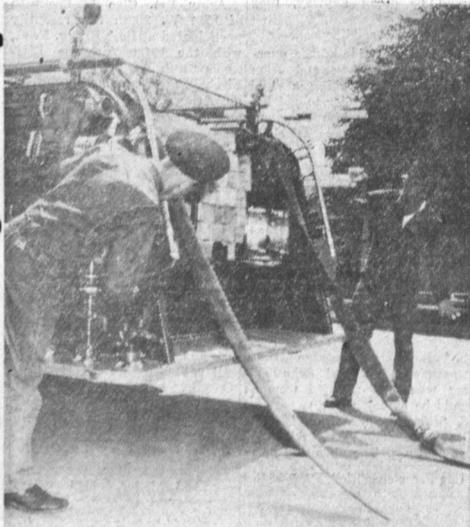
"We're on borrowed time and have been," concedes Fire Marshal Robert Lucas.
Although the city has a fire department complement of 88 persons, including a secretary and communicator, the department is divided into two shifts of 24-hour duty each.
The manpower available each day is further cut by 72-hour off-periods for all shift personnel.
It is aggravated even further

by sickness and vacation period which struck the department for the past month.
On Tuesday, for example, four men were on the sick list, two with the flu which has been haunting the department for more than three weeks.
"The guys do the best they can and come to work when they probably shouldn't because they know we're so short-handed," Lucas said.
While the fire department

bosses appreciate the loyal performance, this situation also has the effect of increasing the length of time the men will be sick when they finally succumb to the flu bug.
One of the problems when a contagious disease strikes is that the firemen are particularly susceptible to it, because they occupy the same dormitory.
The manpower shortage left only 14 men on duty at the headquarters station Tuesday

to take care of five pieces of fire fighting or rescue equipment.
The huge, \$56,000 aerial ladder truck was left in the sole custody of one man assigned to driving it. Firemen point out that it would take at least six men to operate it properly.
"One man can operate it, but it will take a lot longer to get it into action," Lucas said.
The firemen cite that running short crews like they do (they

say that at least three hosemen should be assigned to a truck), the danger to each rises greatly.
"We do the best with what we have, we've even had to cancel days off to get sufficient manpower," Lucas said.
What will happen in case of a major fire?
"We'll have to depend on calling in off-duty personnel and do the best we can," the fire marshal declared.



SOLE PROTECTORS—Engineer Bob Katzorke, left, and acting Capt. Charles Reintzma peek at tailboard of truck to look for missing hosemen. The two firemen were the only ones on duty at Waleria station Tuesday, as sickness and vacations riddled fire department ranks. —Press Photo

Principals Named to Schools

Three Torrance elementary schools and the adult school will have new principals this fall as the result of assignment announced this week.
Donald F. Mullaney, Waleria School principal, will move to Wood Elementary School, while his spot at Waleria will be filled by Victor Kilburn, adult school principal. C. Richard Wallner, newly-named principal, will take over at Newton Elementary School.
Returning to the adult school principalship will be R. E. Collins, who formerly held that position. He now is North High assistant principal.
Backgrounds of the principals include:



VICTOR KILBURN



DONALD F. MULLANEY



R. E. COLLINS

Mullaney—42, member of Torrance school staff since 1951, serving as North Torrance (Casimir) teacher; elementary attendance supervisor; Waleria and Casimir vice principal; and Waleria principal since 1956. Former Wiseburn teacher. Ohio native. Graduate of University of California, Santa Barbara. Married, one son. Lives at 346 Palos Verdes Blvd.

Kilburn—37, adult school principal for last three years. Former Newton, Riviera, Seaside, and Torrance High School teacher. Native of Flint, Mich. Grade of Eastern Michigan, and U. S. C. Master's degree. U. S. C. Ex-Navy lieutenant. Married, two children. Lives at 4913 Sharynne Lane.

Collins—53, assistant principal, North High, and former adult principal. Former high school principal at Kearney, York, and Waco, Neb. Former director of training, War Dept. Signal Corps and now commander, 322nd Signal Battalion Army Reserve. Bachelor's and master's degrees, University of Nebraska and graduate work, University of Iowa, Long Beach State, and University of Southern California. Ex-president, Nebraska Kiwanis, and vice president, Nebraska State Teachers Assn. district; and president, York (Neb.) Junior Chamber. Married, two children. Lives at 3101 W. Carson St.

Wallner—31, vice principal at Howard Wood Elementary School and former Fern-Greenwood and San Jacinto teacher. Graduate, Newport Harbor High School and University of Redlands. Graduate work at U.S.C. Former Navy lieutenant. Married, one daughter. Lives at 28634 Gunter Rd., San Pedro.

IN ACCORDION CONCERT

Peg Parke and Sam Brunelli, 5426 Sharynne Lane, and Bettie Thomas, 1215 Crenshaw Blvd., representing the California Accordion Guild, will participate in a history-making event as part of the Symphonic Accordion Festival under the auspices of the Burbank Symphony Association in the Burbank Starlight Bowl at 8:15 Wednesday night, Aug. 5—the first time that an accordion event ever has been sponsored by a Symphony Association during its regular concert series.

Steele Students Hold Art Fair

Budding young artists at Steele Elementary School showed their efforts Friday in an Art Fair in the school cafeteria.

Sponsored by Scott Gray's sixth and seventh grade class, the show featured entries from all classes, ranging from drawing to paper mache sculpture. Philip Korman's second and third graders put on Spanish dances for the exhibit.

Karen O'Brien won a "best in show" award for her paper mosaic of a Madonna.

Other winners included Becky McArthur, general art; Bill Blair, special effects; Becky Lee and Linda Fields, sculpture; Timmy Ockerman, "Rorschach" division; Gary Kohler, Neil Connell, and Stuart Deikel; Brock Schroeder, cutouts; and Dennis Munson, ideas.

Most of Cash Haul Recovered

Four teenagers described as coming from good North Torrance homes, were arrested for a \$1000 house burglary Tuesday night.

Police said that the young suspects, ranging in age from 14 to 17, were picked up following a cooperative drive by juvenile officers and the patrol division.

The youngsters are accused of breaking into the home of Joseph A. Riess, a butcher, of 3712 W. 168th St. Monday. There they allegedly helped themselves to \$1000 left in a coat pocket in the closet.

Police got on the track of the quartet when they learned that one of the boys had formerly worked for Riess doing his yard work.

Three of them actually committed the burglary when the victim was away, while the other, who worked in a market, cashed the \$1000 bills they took for smaller currency, police said.

Of the total, police recovered \$854, while the remainder had been spent on transistor radios, bowling and entertainment.

Thwaits Murder Trial on

A Torrance longshoreman is among defendants in the long-delayed trial for the murder of a reputed San Diego Mafia chieftain.

He is John Henry Thwaits, 46, of 2080 Middlebrook Road, who together with three other men is accused of the shooting of Tony Mirabile, San Diego tavern owner.

Other defendants are Wilfred Robearge, 38, of Manhattan Beach, Victor F. Buono, 50, former San Diego policeman, and Ernest N. Murray, 45, of Perris.

Selection of a jury for the expected four weeks trial began Monday before Superior Judge William E. Fox.

A fifth member of the alleged murder-robbery ring, is Mrs. Jean Horton, 29, Santa Monica cocktail waitress who pleaded guilty to an assault charge. She is expected to be among the 40 witnesses to be called by the prosecution.

The four men are charged with killing Mirabile as part of a plot to rob him in his apartment last Dec. 27.

Four Men, Girl Nabbed on Dope

Four men and a young woman were arrested on narcotics charges after the car in which they were riding ran a boulevard stop in the 1800 block of Elena St. yesterday.

Officers Bob Jones and Fred Jackman said they found a sack of what appeared to be marijuana, seeds under the rear seat of the car, and five pills on one of the suspects.

Booked on suspicion of narcotics possession were Jeanette A. McClurg, 18, a Lak Vegas car hop; Jack D. Kennedy, 24, of Pasadena, a machinist; Roger Leonard Gevrez, 24, of Riverside, a bartender; James Napoleon Jones, 23, terrazzo worker, and Amos Norton, 26, a machinist, both of Los Angeles.

The Largest Circulating Newspaper between Los Angeles and Long Beach

TORRANCE PRESS

1406 CRAVENS AVE.—FA 8-2345

10c PER COPY

VOL. X

1 • 2 •

THURSDAY, JULY 30, 1959

NUMBER 29

Police Crack Northside Teenage Burglary Ring

Most of Cash Haul Recovered

Four teenagers described as coming from good North Torrance homes, were arrested for a \$1000 house burglary Tuesday night.

Police said that the young suspects, ranging in age from 14 to 17, were picked up following a cooperative drive by juvenile officers and the patrol division.

The youngsters are accused of breaking into the home of Joseph A. Riess, a butcher, of 3712 W. 168th St. Monday. There they allegedly helped themselves to \$1000 left in a coat pocket in the closet.

Police got on the track of the quartet when they learned that one of the boys had formerly worked for Riess doing his yard work.

Three of them actually committed the burglary when the victim was away, while the other, who worked in a market, cashed the \$1000 bills they took for smaller currency, police said.

Of the total, police recovered \$854, while the remainder had been spent on transistor radios, bowling and entertainment.



ANY RESEMBLANCE?—There seems to be, at least in the judges opinion, as they made their selection of the most identical twins at the annual Mother of Twins picnic Sunday at El Retiro Park. Winners of the double-image event were Kirk and Kent Van de Vort, 5, 2604 W. 175th St. —Press Photo

Torrance Twins Double Up for Top Judges Spot

Judging was a double difficult task when more than 200 children, most of them twins, appeared at the annual picnic of the South Bay Mother's of Twins Club at El Retiro Park Sunday.

Winners of the prize for the "Most Look-Alikes" were Kirk and Kent Van De Vort, 5, sons of Mr. and Mrs. L. W. Van De Vort, of 2604 West 175th St.

Other prizes were awarded Donna and Debbie Everett, 5, of East View, "Least Look Alikes," Joyce and Joanne Douglass, 10 months, "Youngest" and Nancy and Tommy Carroll, 15, oldest.

Torrance Fourth in Building

Torrance had the fourth most construction activity in Southern California during the first half of 1959.

With a six-months valuation of \$14,959,456, this city was nosed out of top billing only by Los Angeles, San Diego and Long Beach, the study showed.

Building permits issued here during June alone, amounted to \$4,199,800, compared with \$389,159 during the same month in 1958.

This year's first half activities exceeded last year's valuation by more than \$2,000,000.

Close behind Torrance in the building boom were Chula Vista, Downey, Glendale, Riverside and Pasadena.

BRYAN IN GERMANY

Army Pvt. Charles R. Bryan, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles M. Bryan, 24423 Park St., recently arrived in Germany and is now a member of the 526th Quartermaster Company. The 18-year-old soldier is a 1958 graduate of North Torrance High School.

Clean-Living Thieves Stay for Bubble Bath

It's not that Nellie Martin of 20117 Hawthorne Blvd. is inhospitable; but the antics of her guests infuriated her to the point that she called police.

Mrs. Martin told officers that after she left for work as an aircraft assembler Monday, uninformed guests, believed to be four or five juvenile girls, entered her home by ripping a window screen with a longshoreman's hook.

Once inside, they freely helped themselves to a cake, cookies and soda pop. As dessert they went through 12 packages of chewing gum.

Meanwhile cake and cookie crumbs were strewn all over the inside of the house, and 12 dozen eggs were splattered on the rear wall outside.

But the girls felt a bit sticky after all this workout and nothing seemed as sensible as taking a luxurious bubble bath.

After emerging refreshingly clean, the young intruders left.

There was only one mysterious touch that confounded investigators. Someone had left a \$1 bill on the night stand presumably in payment for the goodies.

Dangerous Sumps Report Asked by City

Complete report on all city sumps was promised within 30 days after Councilman Willys Blount demanded that city ordinances be enforced.

The councilman asked for enforcement of laws governing unprotected sumps on the heels of a report that a goat had died in one only three weeks after two toddlers narrowly escaped a similar death.

"We're having an inspection made of every sump in the city," reported Planning Director George Powell.

"The Kathy Fiscus law has been in effect for years," countered Blount in pressing for prompt enforcement.

He instructed Wade E. Peebles, director of public works, to furnish such a report.

"If some child drowns, it will be on your shoulders, not ours," the councilman told Peebles. That official said he will make a report on all danger spots within 30 days.

Blount also demanded that City Attorney Stanley Remelmeier take prompt legal action against the owners of a former hog farm, which the councilman charged has been used to drain waste from a dairy.

"It's stagnant, stinking waste, and it breeds mosquitoes and causes odors," Blount declared. Remelmeier said he has been waiting for a complete report on the situation to guide him in what legal procedure to use.

"They've been practically violating every law in the book. How long will we stall around before we get definite, positive action?" the councilman asked.

Oil Sump Fatal to Animal

An open oil sump claimed the life of a goat Monday afternoon, less than three weeks after two boys barely escaped death from a quagmire tomb.

The animal, "Billy Buttons," was found dead in the Victor Precinct hole shortly after it ambled out of a riding stable where it had been kept.

The sump is located west of Valerie St. and north of Torrance Blvd.

The one-month-old animal was mired in the greasy substance nearly to its head. The owner of the goat is Lorraine Gough, of 5021 Lee St., who kept it at the stable at 2911 Valerie St.

On July 7, two young brothers miraculously escaped injury after they had played in a poorly fenced sump near Valerie and Spencer Sts. Both Eddie Cradit, 2½, and his brother, Butch, 3½, managed to get out of the oozy mess and walked home, covered waist high with tar.

Officials at the South Bay Humane Society said they have had several complaints of animals stuck in sumps in the area.

Planning Director George Powell, said that his department tries to keep a constant check on unprotected or poorly fenced sumps.

He added that some sumps near long abandoned oil wells appear only during the hot weather and disappear in the winter time when the ground hardens.

RED CROSS ELECTION

Officers will be elected at the annual meeting of the Torrance-Lomita branch of the Red Cross Friday at 7:30 p.m. at the Jump n' Jack Restaurant.

Grand Jury Probe Threat by City Dad

Amid mutterings of a grand jury investigation, the City Council decided to hold up final payment to a contractor whose bill recently infuriated councilmen.

The city fathers decided not to make a \$7000 final payment to the Norwalk Asphaltic Concrete Co. for a paving job on Carson St., until it obtains a lien waiver bond.

"I suggest the grand jury investigate. Somebody besides Mr. (John R.) Patrick is in on this, and I'd like to know who he is," declared Councilman Victor Benstead, referring to the former assistant to the city engineer who is now employed by the contractor.

Benstead did not elaborate on the who the "somebody" is.

The city recently refused to pay a \$14,000 bill to the same company on a paving job on Lomita Blvd. on grounds that the city was overcharged for work it had not ordered.

Mayor Albert Isen who backed Councilman Robert Jahn's motion to withhold payment, said that the city may have several thousands of dollars worth of claims against the contractor.

Dollar Drive Chairman

Harold W. Garvin, Harbor College history instructor, will head the Dollars for Democrats drive on Oct. 1, 2, and 3, following his selection by the 17th Congressional District Democratic Council.

Volunteers who want to participate in the fund campaign may call TE 3-2105.



DEATH TRAP—E. F. Towels of Redondo Beach looks at an unfenced sump which claimed the life of a goat this week. Only three weeks ago two youngsters cheated death when they managed to free themselves from another oozy hole in the Victor Precinct area. —Press Photo