



# TORRANCE PRESS

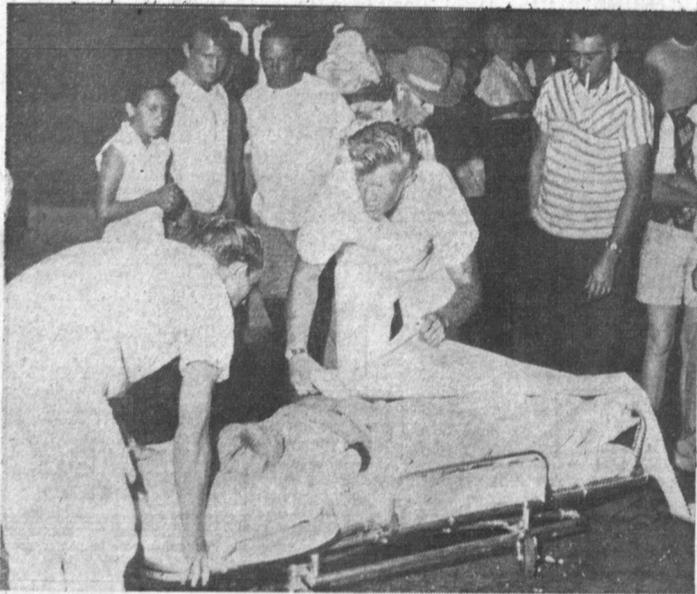
1406 CRAVENS AVE.—FA 8-2345

10¢ PER COPY

VOL. X 1 • 2 •

THURSDAY, AUGUST 27, 1959

NUMBER 37



ACCIDENT VICTIMS—Ambulance attendants place victims on stretchers following two-car collision at Hawthorne Blvd. and Carson St. Six teenagers were hurt in the crash, which occurred only 95 minutes after a veteran Torrance

## Six Injured in Collision at Death Spot

Only 95 minutes after an accident claimed the life of a veteran police officer Sunday night, six teenagers were injured at the same intersection. Police said that six persons were taken to Harbor General Hospital following a two-car collision at Hawthorne Blvd. and Carson St., where Sgt. William R. Lewis was killed earlier that night. James L. Phillips, 16, of 4222 Exultant Drive, Portuguese Bend,

police officer was killed at the same intersection. City officials went to Sacramento yesterday to make a plea that state rush traffic signal program here.



SIGNAL PLEA—Councilmen J. A. Beasley, Nickolas O. Drale and Dick Fitzgerald, manager of the Chamber of Commerce, from left to right, check the documents they took up to Sacramento with them to plead for speedy installation of traffic signals on state highways. In addition they will also ask for funds for the San Diego Freeway construction. —Press Photo

## Beasley Demands Signals

A plea for signals on Pacific Coast Highway in Torrance, was to be made yesterday by Councilman J. A. Beasley in Sacramento as head of a delegation of South Bay officials. Although Beasley's principal reason for being in Sacramento is to renew requests for fund allocations to the San Diego Freeway construction, he said he would make a side trip on strictly Torrance business. "We've got a right to traffic controls in Torrance," the councilman declared. He pointed out that signals are installed on Pacific Coast Highway in Lomita and Redondo Beach, but only a very few in Torrance. "All the speedup doesn't have to be in Torrance," he said. Beasley said that he will ask T. N. Kreiberg, assistant State traffic engineer, to expedite signals on Pacific Coast Highway at Ocean Ave., and Newton St., and also at Hawthorne Blvd. and Carson St. "It's time to take drastic action," he said. (Continued on page eight)

# Legion Hall Ripped by Vandal Thieves

## Burglars Hit Safe Again

Teetotaling burglars who apparently hid out inside at closing time, ransacked the American Legion Hall, 1109 Border Ave., yesterday morning and inflicted heavy damage. Breaking down three doors inside the patriotic hall, they made shambles out of the commander's office, and wrecked three coin machines. Cupboards behind the bar were pried open in an effort to locate cash. Stanley Heiman, first vice commander, said that while the loot the thieves obtained amounted to only approximately \$100, damage was quite severe. A heavy office safe which was in the commander's office, was overturned, and the burglars attempted to pry off the bottom without success. Papers and other fixtures inside the office were scattered. The burglars took the back off the juke box, the front off the cigarette machine and pried open the coin box on a bowling machine. Police believe that the thieves must have hidden inside the hall at closing time early yesterday, since there were no signs of forced entry into the building. They also noted that while the thieves helped themselves to milk, soft drinks, peanuts and a tomato, they ignored liquor and cigarettes kept on the premises. The burglary was discovered yesterday morning by John Bennett, custodian, who found the rear door of the building open. It was the second time this year that the Legion hall safe was attacked.



OFFICE SHAMBLES—Officer Tiny Thompson and Stanley Heiman, first vice commander, inspect shambles in commander's office at American Legion Hall. Attempt was made to attack safe, but did not succeed.

## Funeral Services Set Today for Sgt. Lewis

The entire police department personnel will pay final tribute to Sgt. William R. Lewis, 42, at his funeral service at 2 p.m.

The veteran officer was killed Sunday night when his motorcycle collided with an auto at Hawthorne Blvd. and Carson St. while on routine patrol.

All members of the police department will march down Cravens Ave. this afternoon to the Halverson-Leavell mortuary chapel where the final rites will be conducted.

Officers from Redondo Beach, the Sheriff's Department and California Highway Patrol will relieve Torrance officers during the funeral.

### Died Instantly

Lewis died instantly when his motorcycle rammed into the door of a car driven by John Arthur Adams, 49, of 1822 Belmont Lane, Redondo Beach.

His partner, Officer Don Lemaster, 26, managed to swerve around the car and escaped unscathed.

Adams pleaded not guilty to misdemeanor manslaughter charges Tuesday and was released on \$525 bail pending his jury trial in Torrance Municipal Court Sept. 23.

The motorist's wife, Dorothy, 48, a passenger in his car, suffered minor injuries in the crash.

According to police reports, Lewis and Lemaster were riding their motorcycle southbound on Hawthorne Blvd., and Adams proceeded west on Carson St. just before the crash.

### File Complaint

In filing the manslaughter complaint, traffic investigators charged that Adams was negligent in failure to yield the right of way.

Rev. Milton Sippel, pastor of the First Christian Church will officiate at the services. Interment will be in Green Hills Memorial Park.

Lewis, a native of Seattle, is survived by his wife, Vera, a son, Robert, two daughters, Patricia and Lorraine, his mother, Mrs. Margaret Lewis, all of Torrance, and his sister, Mrs. Margaret Bledsoe of Lomita.

The officer, who had resided at 2884 Onrado St., joined the Torrance police department Oct. 3, 1949 and had been on motorcycle duty for five years.

Lewis had been in charge of

### PAINTINGS EXHIBITED

Paintings by Marco Antonio Gomez are featured in the current art exhibit at the Redondo Beach Public Library. A variety of subjects are represented with emphasis on portrait studies of Navaho Indians.

## Why No Signals?

AN EDITORIAL

Death of a veteran police officer Sunday night bears out the shocking slowness with which something is done to correct danger spots in Torrance.

The accident which claimed Officer Lewis' life was the 14th that has occurred this year to date at Hawthorne Blvd. and Carson St.

A scant 95 minutes later, the 15th accident at that same intersection sent six teenagers to the hospital.

Police records show that since Carson St. was opened to through traffic early this year, there has been one fatality, and six accidents with injuries at this spot.

A request for a traffic signal at that intersection was made to the State Division of Highways (which has jurisdiction over Hawthorne Blvd.) last March. But apparently the request was unclear in its language and no further action was taken until this week when city officials belatedly renewed their request following Lewis' death.

This is not the only dangerous intersection which has suffered from official neglect.

More than a year ago the Traffic Commission requested that a signal be installed

at the intersection of Torrance Blvd. and Anza Ave., presently "protected" by four-way boulevard stop signs.

Police records show that so far this year a total of 19 accidents have occurred there, including eight with injuries.

Top priorities for signals have also been given to the intersections of 174th St. and Arlington Ave., Crenshaw and Lomita Bldvs., and Palos Verdes Blvd. and Calle Miramar.

None of these has been installed, although they were approved many months ago on recommendation of the Traffic Commission.

According to the public works department, plans for signals totally within city jurisdiction will not be designed until a traffic engineer is hired sometime this year.

This could take several more months, and perhaps several more serious accidents before much needed signals can be installed.

The answer could be to hire an outside engineering firm to design the signals and get the job done. This will cost money, but this is still cheaper than human lives.

## Sears Officials Welcomed at Torrance C of C Event

The welcome mat spread out for officials of the new Sears, Roebuck and Co. store which will open in Torrance Sept. 30, at the monthly Chamber of Commerce breakfast Tuesday.

The huge new store now is being completed in the Del Amo Shopping Center and will employ 1200 persons, E. M. Odell, superintendent, pointed out.

He said that one of the reasons for locating in Torrance was the ready availability of a good labor market and the family atmosphere of the city.

The store will have two floors and will comprise 290,000 square feet of building space, Odell said.

Other Sears officials who attended the breakfast, were John Jackson, assistant superintendent,

E. H. Arneson, controller, Bernice Johnson, personnel manager, and Wayne Crandall, merchandise manager. John Lowe, store manager, was unable to attend because of illness.

Mayor Albert Isen presented the traditional key to the city to Odell. More than 140 persons attended the event which was co-chaired by Bernie Lee and Mary Pagac.

In his talk Odell pointed out that Sears purchases 80 per cent of its merchandise in California and that 2000 firms are its suppliers.

Another highlight of the event was the presentation of awards to 11 Chamber members who completed a 17-week economics course sponsored by the Chamber.

The awards were received by

(Continued on page 21)

## Expect 25,000 Students

More than 25,000 students are expected to answer the call to return to school when classes in the Torrance Unified School District start again on Thursday, Sept. 10.

This will represent an increase of more than 2000 students over the opening enrollment last fall. Some 20,000 elementary and 5000 high school students are expected in local classrooms, with a teaching staff of about 950.

Registration of new students currently is underway at North, South, and Torrance High Schools from 1 to 3 p.m. daily through Wednesday, Sept. 2. Returning students registered last spring.

Sign at Schools  
Parents of elementary students may register their youngsters at (Continued on page eight)

## Youths Arrested in Stolen Car Following Chase

Two youths were captured by Torrance police early Sunday after they damaged a stolen car in a chase along Pacific Coast Highway.

Officers spotted the teenagers speeding east of Hawthorne Blvd., hurtle across a center divider and skid into the Vegas parking lot. The suspects turned around, crossed Pacific Coast Highway again and parked the vehicle in a market parking lot at Crenshaw Blvd.

As they started to run on foot, officers ordered them to halt and took them into custody. The youths were turned over to Los Angeles police since the car, registered to Clara Appleby of 4807 Sharynne Lane, was stolen in the Shoestring Strip area.



WELCOME TO TORRANCE—was extended to officials of the new Sears, Roebuck and Co. store at Chamber of Commerce breakfast. Chatting informally here are J. H. Pagac, Chamber president, Miss Bernice Johnson, personnel director of Sears; E. M. Odell, store manager, and Mayor Albert Isen. —Press Photo