



# TORRANCE PRESS

1406 CRAVENS AVE.—FA 8-2345

10c PER COPY

VOL. X

1 • 2 •

SUNDAY, AUGUST 30, 1959

NUMBER 38



FINAL TRIBUTE—More than 100 police motorcycles were lined up around the Halverson-Leavell Mortuary Thursday as its riders attended the huge funeral service for Sgt. William R. Lewis, 42, Torrance motorcycle officer killed in traffic crash.

## Brothers Jailed in Kidnap Threat

### Trainer Robbed, Kidnaped

Two brothers were arrested early Friday after they allegedly robbed and kidnaped a horse trainer and threatened to kill him.

Bill Dillaha, 39, of 4542 West Imperial Hwy., Inglewood, told police that when he stopped for a light at Hawthorne Blvd. and Pacific Coast Hwy., two men jumped into the front seat of his car and one pressed a knife against his neck.

After relieving him of his wallet, which contained \$8, one of the suspects assertedly growled: "Let's kill him."

#### Make Threats

His companion, later identified as his brother, told him, "No, let's wait until we get to 154th St.," the victim told detectives.

Dillaha said he continued driving north on Hawthorne Blvd. until he reached 154th St., where he was ordered to make a U-turn. There he spotted an open service station and drove into the driveway, yelling at an attendant, "I'm being robbed."

With that the victim stepped on the gas and one of the suspects wrestled with him for the steering wheel.

#### Run on Foot

Finally the suspects jumped out of the car and dashed west on 154th St., where they were apprehended by Deputy Sheriffs Willemar Layne and N. E. Collan, who were patrolling the street.

The suspects were identified as Samuel Franklin White, 28, an aircraft worker of 636 Prospect St., Hermosa Beach, and his brother, Elmer Norton, 27, just arrived from Oklahoma.

Sheriff's detectives said that the pair refused to admit the robbery and will be turned over to Torrance police. They were booked on suspicion of robbery and kidnaping.



TUNING UP for tonight's "pop" concert by Torrance-South Bay Symphony Orchestra is Cellist Michael Malosek, who will make his first appearance in Los Angeles area as soloist. He was first cello with New York Metropolitan Opera Orchestra for many years.

### 'Pop' Concert Featured as Auditorium Curtain Closer

A final "pop" concert by the Torrance-South Bay Symphony Orchestra and a Vesper Service, will be the curtain closers in the Civic Auditorium today at 7 p.m.

It will be the final performance in the building which has been sold to the Security First National Bank and will be turned over to the owners Sept. 1.

Eugene Minor, 18, of Torrance, will serve as guest conductor and lead the instrumental group in Britten's "Matinees Musicales." Soloists will include Ronnie Romm, 12-year-old trumpeter, who'll play "La Virgen de la Macarena," and Michael Malosek, cellist, formerly with the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra in New York, who will be featured in "Hungarian Rhapsody."

Admission to the concert sponsored by the Recreation Department will be free.

### Riviera Club Land to be Auctioned Off

The site of the burned-down Hollywood Riviera Club will be auctioned off Sept. 8, to satisfy debts accumulated over 30 years.

William J. Hanson, president of the Hollywood Riviera Home Owners Association, said that while property owners have a stake in the land, he expects no legal action will be taken to oppose the sale.

Hanson explained that the auction will be conducted by the Title Insurance and Trust Co. at 11 a.m., to pay off the \$125,000 building loan taken out in 1930 and the 7 per cent interest that has accrued since then.

The total interest owed to the Huntington Land Co., is estimated anywhere from \$250,000 to \$500,000, according to Hanson.

Residents Share He said that technically each owner of a lot in the Riviera district is entitled to a share in the club house in line with the original subdivision's plans.

However, only one home owner has made any serious suggestion that the association should retain an attorney to determine what the residents' rights are, Hanson said.

"There has been the suggestion that this is our property, and why let it go?" the association president confirmed. "But one look at the interest makes it appear hopeless to us."

He said that if residents are willing to chip in to retain an attorney, a delay in the auction might be requested through court action. But the legal fees will not be paid out of the association treasury.

Part of Tract The Riviera Club was built in 1930 from a loan obtained from the Huntington Land Co., as part of the Hollywood Riviera subdivision started by Clifford Reid

### See Hope in Freeway Fund Battle

Torrance officials report that their trip to Sacramento to urge completion of the San Diego Freeway in this area was successful.

City Councilman J. A. Beasley lead the delegation composed of Councilman Nicholas O. Drake and Chamber of Commerce Manager Dick Fitzgerald and representatives of the Inter-City Highway Committee from ten South Bay cities.

Beasley said the Commission was sympathetic toward Torrance-South Bay freeway needs. The delegation urged early completion of the San Diego Freeway from Jefferson Blvd. in Culver City to the Harbor Freeway interchange at 190th Street in the Torrance area.

State Highway Commissioner, Robert B. Bradford said his group is very familiar with the problem but that \$41 million was needed to purchase the right freeway for the requested link and that Federal Aid for Highways was uncertain at this time.

Beasley and Fitzgerald were speakers before the Commission as were Inglewood Councilman Fred Jones and City Engineer Fred Irvin of Palms Verdes Estates. Adding remarks were Inter-City Highway Committee Chairman William Cameron, Redondo Beach City Councilman and Assemblyman Clayton Deills of Gardena.

### R. C. Mahon Operation Due Dec. 1

Steel is being fabricated and erection will soon start on the new R. C. Mahon Company's \$3,500,000 west coast plant facilities in Torrance, the firm reported here today.

Walter G. Mitchell, executive vice-president of the company's western division, said both the 200,000-square-foot manufacturing, and the 10,000-square-foot combined administration-engineering buildings under construction will be completed, including installation of production equipment, before the end of this year.

Manufacturing operations, he estimates, will start by the first of December.

Construction, which is being handled by L. E. Dixon Company of Los Angeles as the prime contractor, is on a 30-acre site on Monterey St.

### SCHOOL BOARD MEET

Regular meeting of the Board of Education will be held Tuesday at 8 p.m.

### Jail Boy in 'Derby' Car Theft

A car destined for a "Destruction Derby" was involved in an unscheduled collision Friday and landed its driver in jail on suspicion of car theft and hit and run driving.

Jimmy Dyer, 36, of Anaheim, made a citizen's arrest of the 16-year-old Torrance High School student who allegedly fled the scene of the accident at Torrance Blvd. and Western Ave.

Police said that Dyer, whose truck was hit, chased the youth in a borrowed car after the teenage driver assertedly fled the scene and parked his car on 213th St. in front of the Rome Cable Co.

Dyer returned the youth, and his passenger Norman Hampton, 19, of 119 Columbia Place, to the scene of the collision and turned him over to traffic investigators.

Hampton, who police said was not involved in the alleged theft of the car from Gardena wrecking yard, complained of a knee injury.

### 215 New Teachers to Report

Speeches, tours, steaks and lots of hard work are in prospect for Torrance's 950 school teachers, who will start back to work before their students.

Some 215 new teachers will report Thursday for orientation sessions, while 735 returning teachers will show up on Tuesday, Sept. 8. They will be preparing for Tuesday, Sept. 10, when some 25,000 youngsters return to classes at the district's 23 elementary and three high schools.

In orientation sessions, new teachers will report to their assigned buildings for instructions from principals. They will tour the district's facilities—administration building, educational materials building and service facilities. They will get their classrooms ready for children.

At 4:30 Thursday, they will attend a steak fry sponsored by the Torrance Chamber of Commerce in Torrance Park. The Torrance Education Association will host them at a "Welcome to Torrance" breakfast at the THS cafeteria.

When the rest of the teachers arrive on Tuesday, they will get ready for the start of classes. At 11 a. m. Tuesday, they will hear a talk by Supt. J. H. Hull and at 11 a. m. Wednesday, a talk by Robert L. Brackenbury, University of Southern California professor is scheduled.

### Slate Sports Night

Members of the Centinela Valley Jewish Council will inaugurate the fall season with a "Lucky Lager Sports Nite" on Tuesday, at the Council building, 416 Birch Ave., Hawthorne. In addition to three up-to-date sports films, there will be free refreshments, and a sports discussion. The public is invited to attend this event which will begin at 8 p.m.

### More Than 500 Persons Throng Service for Sgt. Lewis, Killed in Traffic Accident

More than 500 persons, most of them law enforcement officers from all over Southern California, paid final tribute to Sgt. William R. Lewis, 42, at his funeral service Thursday afternoon.

The entire Torrance police department personnel attended the services for the veteran officer, who was killed in a traffic accident Sunday night while on duty.

At least 100 motorcycle officers were among the mourners who ringed Halverson-Leavell mortuary chapel. The chapel, patio and parking area of the funeral home was jammed and the overflow crowd heard the services conducted by Chaplain John Penner of Harbor General Hospital over a public address system.

A long caravan of cars, many of them police units, followed the funeral procession to Green Hills Memorial Park, where Lewis was interred.

Police from nearly every city in Southern California arrived by car and motorcycle long before the 2 p. m. service.

An honor guard of traffic bureau members, including Don Lemaster, his partner at the time of the accident, acted as pallbearers.

Lewis, a 10-year veteran of the department, died instantly Sunday night when his motorcycle collided with an auto at Hawthorne Blvd. and Carson St. while on routine patrol.

While the Torrance policemen turned out en masse to pay their final respects, the patrol work was taken over by the sheriff's department, California Highway Patrol, and Redondo Beach officers.

Only one crime, the theft of a purse containing \$24, spectacles and a diamond ring, was reported by Kathleen Morris, of Kitty's Maternity Shop, 1212 El Prado, police reported.



HONOR ESCORT — Pallbearers who carried Sgt. Lewis' casket from the mortuary following service included Don Lemaster, second from left, who escaped injury in the crash which claimed his partner's life Sunday.

### Torrance Population Climbs Another 2000

Torrance's population has climbed by nearly 2000 since April, according to estimates by the County Regional Planning Commission.

The latest estimate places this city's population at 98,691, compared with 96,955 counted during the official special census completed four months ago.

Despite the growth, Torrance's ranking in Los Angeles County cities remains at fifth place, surpassed only by Los Angeles, Long Beach, Pasadena and Glendale.

Torrance will have to grow by 20,000 inhabitants to catch up with Glendale whose population is estimated at 118,500.

But there is little threat to Torrance's rank with the sixth largest city, Burbank, with a population of 92,898.

### 'Death Corner' Claims Number 16 Accident Victim of the Year

Three days after Sgt. William R. Lewis was killed in a collision at Hawthorne Blvd. and Carson St., accident No. 16 of the year took place at "death corner."

Police said that a small foreign sedan, traveling north bound on Hawthorne Blvd. flipped over after it collided with a car coming out of Carson St.

Although no one was injured in the collision, police reports show that six injury accidents have taken place at this intersection this year.

Only 95 minutes after Lewis was killed Sunday night, six teenagers were injured on the same spot.

A delegation of city officials renewed request to the State to install a signal and safety lights at the corner, only to find the lengthy delay is at least equally the fault of city officials.

### Knife-Wielding Burglar Stalks Woman in Home

A teacher spent a few terrified moments Wednesday afternoon when she was stalked by a stocky youth who threatened her with a knife.

Mrs. Ethel Woodall, 54, of 4354 W. 182nd St., told police that she first noticed the intruder standing at the door of her bedroom, a butcher knife in his hand.

He forced her to accompany him while he searched for money all over the house and finally ordered her back into the bedroom.

There he attempted to tie her up with a television cord, but when that failed, he locked her inside a closet.

The burglar was described as short and stocky, about 17 years old and wearing dark glasses.

### AIRPORT CLAUSE STUDIED

The Defense Department has no objection to releasing the national emergency clause on Torrance Municipal Airport, the city was informed this week.

A letter from Attorney James Hall advised the City Council that federal restrictions on two parcels at the airport will be removed on formal request.

### Escrow Money 'Un-iced'

Escrow proceedings delayed for several months because of bankruptcy filing by the Heath Escrow Co., are now being completed.

Some of the transactions have already been completed and the others will be processed as soon as possible, according to Harry Sherman, president of the Landvale Escrow Co., who is handling the project in cooperation with the South Bay Escrow Owners Association.

He said that funds placed in trust with the Heath Escrow Co. are being released as fast as needed and that the escrows are being processed as rapidly as possible.

"There is no reason why anyone should lose anything, except time," Sherman said. "We are trying to do the job to help the people as a public service."

The Heath Company filed bankruptcy action in June, while it had more than \$300,000 in trust funds on deposit for uncompleted escrows.

### Bicyclist Dies in Truck Crash

An 18-year-old bicyclist was killed in a collision with a truck at Normandie Ave. and 230th St., Thursday.

George Alvin Elwood of Los Angeles was riding southbound on Normandie when he was hit on the back of the head by the truck's rear view mirror and knocked on the pavement, according to California Highway Patrolmen.

Officers said the youth swerved slightly just as the truck passed him.

The driver of the truck was Roland Edward Pierce, 37, of Long Beach, police said.



SOUVENIR—Betty Baker, Miss Torrance, polishes plaque from Civic Auditorium, which will be taken over by new owner, the Security-First National Bank, Tuesday. The city building was sold to the financial institution for \$125,000. The old city hall will also be taken over by private owner, the Home Savings and Loan Association, this week.