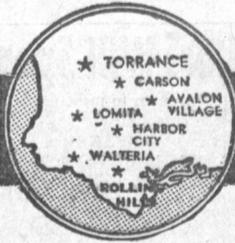


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# TORRANCE PRESS

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14, 1962

3238 SEPULVEDA BLVD., TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA

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**STUDY BOND ISSUE**—M. E. Schwab, chairman of the Airport Revenue Bond Committee, told members of the Torrance Education Association of proposed plans for improving the municipal facility at a luncheon meeting Monday at Masonic Hall. Speaking on the bond issue, which will repay itself

from increased revenue at the airport, Schwab expressed confidence that it would gain voter approval on the April 10 ballot. Here Schwab speaks to Margaret Denmark, program chairman, and Donald Credell, principal of Edison School.

# PRETTY 17-YEAR-OLD GIRL COMMITS SUICIDE

## Takes Own Life After Family Argument

A 17-year-old South High School student apparently took her own life Monday afternoon, following a family argument.

Clairese E. Blickenstaff, 24851 Hawthorne Blvd., fired one shot into her right temple as police, hastily summoned by the girl's foster mother, approached.

### Death Scene Will Be Turned Into N. Torrance Park

City councilmen were congratulated last night for rapidly solving problems in a North Torrance area. A huge, water-filled clay pit near the area had posed a hazard until prompt city action had caused fences to be erected and had started filling operations.

Six-year-old boy drowned in the unprotected pit two weeks ago. When the pit is filled, it was learned in a pre-council meeting with homeowners of the area, the land will be donated to the city and will be converted into a park.

Owner of the property, Henry M. Guenser, 1236 W. 164th St., said the property, located at 178th St. and St. Andrews Place, will soon be filled and ready for the city to take over. Empty pit is presently being used as a private dump. City officials said that when the dump is filled and donated, it will have between 11 and 12 acres to build the park. R. A. Watt, owner of adjoining land, has also promised to donate a half acre to the park site. City already owns an adjoining parcel that is being used as a Little League field.

Her mother, Mrs. Nancy Dinwiddie, told officer that she had argued with the girl, who went outside to a trailer-bedroom. Before leaving, she said, the girl took her father's pistol and threatened to "kill herself and anyone who came near her."

### CALLED POLICE

The frantic woman called police, who immediately dispatched Officers Harry Waugaman and Donald Flaherty to the scene.

As the officers approached the trailer, they said, they heard the muffled sound of a shot.

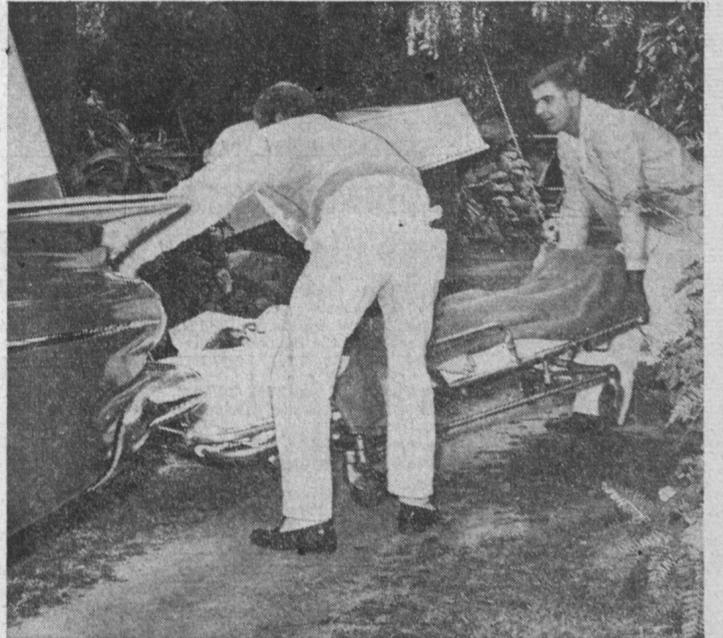
Going inside they found the attractive girl lying unconscious on the floor with the small pistol lying beside her.

She was pronounced dead on arrival at Harbor General Hospital.

The girl's mother said that she had argued with her over "too much dating."

She stated that the girl had asked her to make a pair of capris and that she had been too busy to finish them, and that this had brought on the argument.

Mrs. Dinwiddie said that they often argued over dating, clothes and school. She said the girl was "independent and very high strung."



**DIES AFTER ARGUMENT** — Unconscious South High senior Clairese E. Blickenstaff, 24851 S. Hawthorne, died on the way to the hospital Monday afternoon. Seventeen-year-old girl fired shot into her right temple following a family argument with her

foster mother. Officers called to take the gun away from the distraught girl said that they heard a muffled shot as they approached her bedroom. They found the girl lying on the floor, the pistol beside her.

### ON TEXAS TRIP . . .

## Final Services Today for Three Victims Of Tragic Plane Crash Over Weekend

Funeral services for Robert Touchstone, 22017 Anza Ave., his nephew, Daryl David Blanks, 5024 Laurette St., and a brother, Auda Vee Touchstone, Westminster, were held this morning at the First Baptist Church in Hermosa Beach.

The three men were killed last weekend in a small plane crash in the San Geronimo Pass near Banning, Calif. They were on their way to Abilene, Texas, to visit another brother.

Robert Touchstone, 34, was the owner of Touchstone Flooring Co. in Torrance. He is survived by his widow, Joan, daughter, Diana, and sons, Rodney, Steven and Bobby Jack.

Auda Vee Touchstone, 45, is survived by his widow, Viola, son, Champ, and daughters, Audrey and Mrs.

Judith Miller. David Blanks, 18, a student at South High School, is survived by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. R. C. Blanks, brother, Eddie, and sisters, Gayle, Janna and Nelda. The youth was interred at Pacific Crest Cemetery, Redondo Beach, following the services.

Touchstone brothers were interred this afternoon in Westminster Memorial Park. The Reverend Howard Ford and Dr. D. K. Brumfield officiated at this morning's services.



ROBERT TOUCHSTONE . . . Services Today

### Gas Fumes Strike Down Local Man

A Torrance man was among eight workers hospitalized after they were overcome by fumes Monday while working on the new Chavez Ravine stadium.

Taken to Lincoln Heights Receiving Hospital was George Townsend, 51, 1529 Scott St. Released after treatment, he returned to his job.

Carbon monoxide fumes in a boiler room under the stadium caused the incident, reported L. A. city firemen, called to the scene.

### Shoestring Strip Street Project Okayed by L.A.

Another step in the program to improve all streets in the Torrance Shoestring Strip of Los Angeles has been taken. L. A. Councilman John S. Gibson said this week.

Contract for improvement of Plaza Del Amo south roadway between Denker St. and Western Ave. has been awarded to the Sheets Construction Co. of Gardena. A low bid of 11 submitted was \$16,404.

The project will include full improvement from Denker to Harvard, with additional work between Harvard and Western for widening of an existing roadway.

Weather permitting, work is expected to begin in about 30 days.

Men were connecting electrical wiring and plumbing when they were overcome by the fumes. Contractors on the stadium are racing to complete the huge structure before the April 10 opening date for the baseball season.

### \$200 Gift to 'Y' Presented By Local Realtors

Jack Schmidt, president of the Torrance-Lomita Board of Realtors, yesterday presented a \$200 check to Laurel Lee Poser, of the Torrance Family YMCA.

Gift will go toward the operation of the local youth agency for the coming year. The 1962 goal of \$40,000 is necessary for conducting an active program of 218 youth groups, 24 camping sessions, athletic leagues, leadership training and personal counseling.

Smith stated that the realtors support the "Y" because all funds are used directly for boys and girls living in Torrance and Lomita. He pointed out that over 30 realtors have also made individual contributions to the "Y" drive this year.

Mrs. Poser expressed YMCA gratitude for the gift and reported that this contribution brought the campaign total to \$22,000. She urged all citizens to consider making a contribution to the local YMCA in order to keep its many services going for over 6000 local kids.



**ADDS TO FUND**—A check for \$200 was presented to YMCA officials yesterday morning by the Torrance-Lomita Board of Realtors as board's part of \$40,000 "Y" quota for the year. In addition to the contribution indi-

vidual realtors have subscribed varying amounts. Above, Board President Jack Schmidt presents check to Laurel Lee Poser, representing the fund raising committee, while Joseph Wilcox, executive secretary, looks on.

### Area Businessman Named to Head Riviera Rotary

Jack Spencer, Torrance businessman, was elected new president of the Hollywood Riviera Rotary Club for the 1962-1963 year at its



JACK SPENCER . . . Rotary Prexy

meeting Thursday noon at the Plush Horse restaurant. He served as vice-president and publicity chairman last year. Spencer and his wife, Barbara Jean, reside at 264 Via Linda Vista, Hollywood Riviera. They have three children: Linda, 7; Vickie, 6; and Steven, 5. He is owner of Spencer's Rug Cleaners in Torrance. Among his affiliations are the Torrance Chamber of Commerce, Torrance Elks Club, and the National Institute of Rug Cleaners, of which he is a national director. Formerly a member of Toastmasters, he served in the U. S. Army in 1946 and 1947. Other officers elected include Carl Rogers, vice-president; Harold Dale, treasurer, and Guy Brundage, secretary. On the executive board for the coming year are Joe Wall, Morgan Moore, Gene Vorhees and Fred Zierer. Father Charles Ara is sergeant-at-arms. Outgoing president is Jack Whiting.

### WEEKEND RAID . . .

## Arrest 15 Teenagers in Alleged Drinking Party

Fifteen teenagers were taken into custody over the weekend in what Torrance police described as a "drinking party," it was reported Monday.

Most of the boys and girls arrested were turned over to their parents after extensive questioning. Boys over 18 years of age were held on possession of alcohol charges.

Ages of the youngsters ranged from 14 to 19 years of age. Arresting officers said that the suspects were holding the drinking party in an empty house at 23929 Ocean Ave. They said they became suspicious when they noticed two girls enter the house. When the door was opened for them they noticed that the house was lit by candlelight. Electricity in the empty house had been turned off.

When officers entered, they said, they were met by a laughing 18-year-old youth who informed them that he was holding the party but there was no drinking going on. However, investigators said, they found whiskey, vodka, gin and beer in the house.

Richard L. Floyd, 59, 2313 Cabrillo Ave., was taken into custody in a Gardena card club after witnesses to the accident followed him there and then notified police.

Arthur C. Anderson, 44, of 1246 Renton Ave., Torrance, was hurt in the crash with Floyd's car. He was treated and then released from Gardena Hospital. He suffered bruises and lacerations on his head. Witnesses to the accident said that Floyd made a left turn in front of Anderson's car at Vermont Ave. and Artesia Blvd. After the crash, Floyd stopped his car. After waiting a few minutes he suddenly put the vehicle into gear and sped from the scene.

He was later identified by several witnesses to the accident. He listed his occupation as driver of a vacuum truck.

### Heads Group

Harold G. Frenz, president of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce, announced the appointment of Dean L. Sears to chairmanship of the Governmental Affairs Committee this week.

Purpose of this committee is to cooperate and assist local, county, state and national governmental and legislative officials; elected and appointed, in financial and legislative matters.

### Fall into Pit Seriously Injures Visiting Youth

Eight-year-old Charles T. Thomas was seriously injured Sunday after falling into a Harbor City construction excavation, where he was impaled on a five-eighths-inch diameter steel rod.

The boy apparently rode his bicycle down a driveway and tumbled into the six-foot-deep hole at 1527 W. 251st St., according to investigating officers. Falling on the steel rod, he was pinned until his brother, Vernon Lee Thomas, 12, pulled the boy free and called the parents.

Police said the Mojave youth and his brother were in the city visiting friends.