

Five Persons Hurt in Wild Barroom Brawl

Torrance Press-Herald

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Published semi-weekly Wednesday and Sunday by King Williams Press, Inc. Entered as second class matter January 30, 1914,
at Post Office, Torrance, California, Under act of March 3, 1879

Series II, Vol. II, No. 21

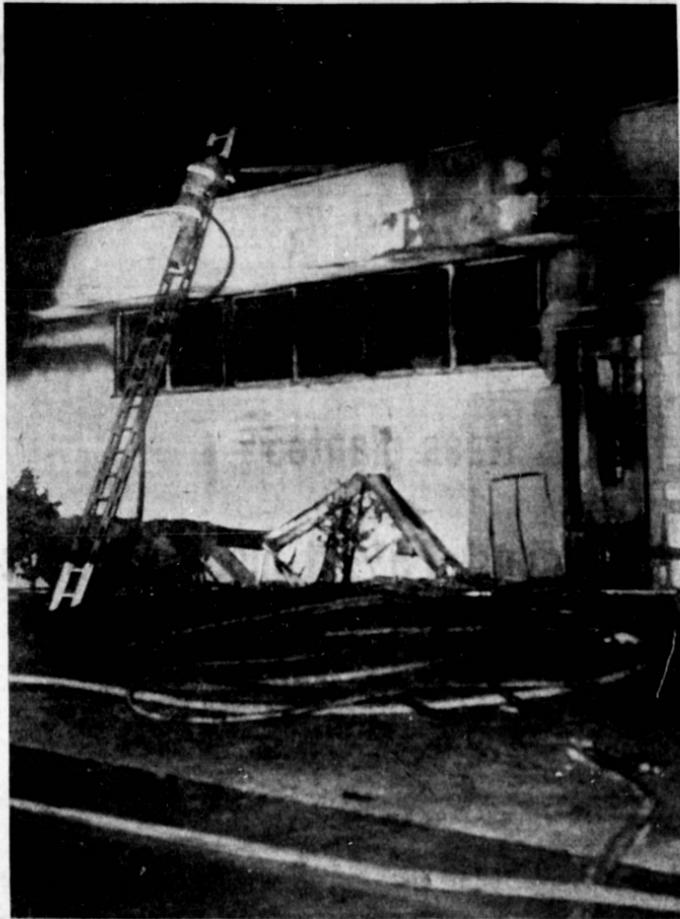
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3238 Sepulveda Blvd., Torrance, California — Sunday, Sept. 12, 1965

By Carrier 50¢ Per Month
By Mail \$12 Per Year

10¢ Per Copy

16 PAGES



FIREMEN BATTLE BLAZE . . . A Torrance fireman directs water onto the roof of the Torrance High School music building which was destroyed by flames early Thursday. The building was being remodeled and enlarged to be used as classrooms for the city's oldest high school after the first of next year. The fire probably added six months to the schedule, officials say. (Press-Herald Photo)

Arson Clues Sought In High School Fire

Experts Probe Building Fire Site for Clues

A possibility that flames which destroyed the Torrance High School music room early Thursday might have been the work of an arsonist is being checked out by trained investigators.

A team of sheriff's arson experts and agents of the National Board of Fire Underwriters checked through the area Thursday hunting clues to the source of the flames.

Firemen were called to the scene shortly after midnight Thursday morning to find the building involved in flames with fire shooting from windows and from the roof.

Flames were knocked down within a few minutes, but it took a major part of the night to soak the heavy timbers and extinguish small fires throughout the building.

The building was being remodeled to serve as a classroom and would have been ready for students after the first of next year, according to Dr. J. H. Hull superintendent. He added that the building was not being used at the time because of the remodeling, therefore musical instruments and other equipment was not involved.

Burglary Nets Guns For Thief

A 12-gauge double barrel shotgun and a .22-calibre bolt action rifle were among items taken from a North Torrance apartment early Saturday, Torrance Police have been told.

Jim Smith, 16910 Crenshaw Blvd., reported the burglary about 1 a.m. He told officers a portable electric sewing machine and \$23 in cash also were missing.

The burglar apparently entered the Smith apartment through an unlocked sliding glass door, police reported. Total value of the stolen items was listed at \$409.

In a second home burglary, police were told a tool box containing \$125 worth of tools was taken from the garage at 21112 Ladeene Ave. Owner John A. Spisak, who reported the theft Friday morning, said two hubcaps were removed from his car.

Torrance police also investigated a reported burglary at the Independent Building Materials Co. Friday. William A. Tooker told officers someone had entered the office, located at 525 Maple St., and ransacked the place. Nothing apparently was taken.

Carson Area Seeks Lights

Residents on four Carson area streets may receive 16 new street lights in 1966 as the result of a petition now being circulated in two adjoining tracts, Supervisor Chairman Burton W. Chace reports.

The territory involved is bounded by 213th Street, 215th Street, Legend Avenue, and Lostine Avenue.

Airport Attraction



ON DISPLAY . . . This 25-foot model of the Air Force Titan III will be on display during Torrance Airport Day next Sunday. The scale model of the giant military space booster will be just one of the many attractions of the day-long celebration and open house at Torrance Municipal Airport.

Weapon Missing

Man Stabbed, Four Others Receive Cuts

Two persons—one of them a teenager—were arrested on suspicion of assault with intent to commit murder Saturday morning following a barroom brawl in which one man was stabbed and four other persons injured.

Torrance Police, responding to a call shortly after 2 a.m., arrested Frank Grajeda, 23, of 78 16th St., San Pedro, and Robert Ralph Carranza, 17, of 722 W. Santa Cruz, San Pedro.

Robert Snyder, 26, of 1637 W. 224th St., suffered a possible knife wound in the left side of his chest. Snyder was taken to Little Company of Mary Hospital by ambulance.

ALSO INJURED in the brawl were Thomas Fichter, 1610½ W. 218th St., and James Hinerman, 26003 Crest Road. They suffered cuts and bruises and were treated at Little Company of Mary Hospital and released.

Two other persons, Donald Smith, no address, and Gloria Franks, 26003 Crest Road, sustained minor injuries. They refused medical aid.

The brawl erupted about closing time and involved some 15 persons, police said. Persons had begun to leave the area when the first police unit arrived at the scene at 914 Van Ness Ave.

POLICE SAID Snyder's wound was not serious. Officers were unable to find the weapon, although it was believed to be a knife.

Five officers responded to the call, first thought to be a burglary.

Grajeda and Carranza were taken to the Torrance Police Station and booked on the assault charge. They were still in custody shortly before noon yesterday.

Plunge Begins Fall Schedule

Fall schedules will be inaugurated at the city plunge tomorrow, according to the Torrance Recreation Department.

The pool will be open to the public from 7 to 9:30 p.m. Monday through Friday until Sept. 17, beginning Sept. 18 and ending Oct. 31, the pool will open only on Saturdays and Sundays from 1 to 5 p.m.

City Pair Could Get More Work

City Clerk Vernon Coil and City Treasurer Thomas Rupert may get some extra work—and some extra money—if recommendations submitted to the City Council are adopted Tuesday evening.

Councilmen will consider the extra work, extra money proposition in a 7:15 p.m. council session.

City Manager Edward J. Ferraro will recommend that duties of the city's license supervisor be split between Coil and Rupert. The position has been vacant since the death of Henry Litzinger early this summer.

BOTH COIL and Rupert are part-time officials under present provisions of the city charter. Additional administrative duties have been assigned to Coil to make him a full-time employee and a charter amendment approved in 1964 will make the city clerk a full-time official following next year's municipal election.

Mayor Albert Isen told the Press-Herald yesterday the council may consider submitting a charter amendment to the voters to make the treasurer a full-time official. Ferraro told councilmen the assignment of added license department duties to officials will bring Torrance into line with current practices in other cities and result in a substantial savings in salaries.

DURING THE regular council session.

(Continued on Page A-2)

Seven Persons Hurt

Rear-End Crashes Add Traffic Woes

Seven persons sustained minor injuries in three separate rear-end collisions here Friday afternoon.

Two of the accidents occurred in virtually the same place and within five minutes of each other.

Jerry Bordeaux of Glendale, a passenger in a car driven by John L. Bordeaux, 20, of Provo, Utah, told officers he would seek private medical attention. The Bordeaux vehicle was stopped on Hawthorne Avenue south of Del Amo Boulevard for a traffic signal when it was struck from the rear.

Driver of the second car was Daniel Serrano, 27, of Manhattan Beach. He was not injured.

Officers detailed to investigate the first crash witnessed a second rear-end collision in which three persons were injured.

The second crash involved a car driven by William Woodrow Hodges, 37, of 15137 S. Grevilla Ave., Lawndale, and one driven by Toni Diane Hamblin, 19, of 21713 Ocean Ave. Both cars were northbound on Hawthorne Avenue near Del Amo Boulevard when the Hodges vehicle crashed into the Hamblin vehicle.

Officers reported Hodges was following too close to the Hamblin vehicle.

MISS HAMBLIN and Jeanette Hamblin, 45, were taken to Little Company of Mary Hospital. They suffered cuts and abrasions on the legs.

INJURED were Abraham Jaffe, 52, of Los Angeles; Kathleen R. Kanner, 2602 Ridgeland Rd., and Roberta Willis, 47, of 21603 Grace Ave.

The Jaffe vehicle struck the second car from behind while going south on Crenshaw Boulevard. Mrs. Willis was driving the second car. Police again said failure to allow sufficient distance between cars was a factor.

Norma Hodges, 33, a passenger in the Hodges vehicle, told officers she would seek private medical attention. Her head apparently struck the windshield.

In an earlier rear-end collision, three persons sustained minor injuries but refused medical aid.

Chris Rossberg, son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Rossberg of 410 Via Malaga, was named the winner of the August subscription sales contest by Press-Herald Circulation Manager Darrell Wescott.

"Chris has the enthusiasm and sincerity needed in this business," Westcott said. "He is learning basic business principals and making many new friends on his Press-Herald route."

Young Rossberg is a member of the Sea-Aire Youth Golf Club and is described as a "promising young golfer." He also plays third base for the Major Orioles in the Riviera Little League.



CHRIS ROSSBERG

Temporary College Nearly Ready

Remodeling of the temporary Peninsula location of California State College at Palos Verdes is nearing completion as the college staff prepares for the first day of classes on Sept. 23.

Two lecture rooms, a seminar room, a physics laboratory, and a library have been added to the present college offices in the California Federal Building on Silver Spur Road in the Peninsula Center.

The college library, now numbering approximately 52,000 volumes, has been moved to the South Bay from San Bernardino, and several thousand volumes appropriate to the first-year course offerings will be shelved and available for use in support of the fall program. In addition, several hundred periodicals covering all academic fields of the college will be available.

The initial group of freshmen and juniors will report to the college on Tuesday, Sept. 21 for orientation, advisement, testing, and registration. The first classes will be held on Thursday, Sept. 23.

Although time is short, applications for admission are still being accepted and processed. Prospective students wishing further information regarding the application procedure should immediately contact the Office of Student Affairs at the college—phone 377-6837.

In addition to the day-time

Physician's Son Killed - - -

Memorial services for Gregory Merrill Eastham, son of Dr. and Mrs. Gerald Eastham, were held in the Neighborhood Church in Palos Verdes Estates Friday. The 17-year-old youth was killed Tuesday while running from a speeding passenger train on a 15-foot-high trestle in northern San Diego County. Friends said young Eastham was walking on the trestle carrying a surfboard when the train approached. He was an honor student at Palos Verdes High School. In addition to his parents he is survived by brothers, Galen, Gary, and Gifford, and grandmothers, Eleanor Whitsell and Grace Eastham, both of Torrance. Burial was in Green Hills Memorial Park.

Airport Funds Approved - - -

Approval by the Federal Aviation Agency of an \$82,240 grant to the Torrance Municipal Airport was announced here Friday. The funds represent the FAA share of a planned \$150,000 improvement at the airport. Jack Egan, manager of the airport, said the matching grant will be spent to widen aprons and add taxiways to the airport. The money represents 54 per cent of the cost of the work, Egan said. Construction is expected to begin next year.

Walteria School Entered - - -

Victor Kilburn, principal of the Walteria Elementary School, told Torrance Police Friday that someone had entered the administration building of the school sometime Thursday night. Kilburn said entry was gained through a work-room window. Nothing was taken, but a fire extinguisher was discharged on the school playground. Police found several bloody paper towels in the building, leading them to believe the vandal suffered a bad cut on his hand or arm.