

Neighbors, Red Cross Help Blast Victims

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EXAMINE HOSPITAL PLAN . . . Plans for a new Torrance Memorial Hospital were revealed last Wednesday at a luncheon marking the start of a public subscription campaign for some \$3 million. Checking plans for the new nine-story hospital complex are, from left, Richard Sullivan, M.D., chief of staff of the hospital; Gene Verge, AIA, and Richard Clatworthy, AIA, architects; and Mrs. Boris S. Woolley, president of the hospital's Board of Directors. Funds raised during the drive will supplement a \$3.2 million federal and state grant. (Press-Herald Photo)

\$3 Million Sought In Hospital Drive

Officials of the Torrance Memorial Hospital and Riviera Community Hospital last week launched a drive for \$3 million to supplement state and federal grants to construct a new 250-bed hospital.

The new Torrance Memorial Hospital, to be located on a 10-acre site at the southeast corner of Hawthorne and Lomita boulevards, would be part of a 35-acre medical complex.

The nine-story hospital will replace facilities of Torrance Memorial and Riviera Community hospitals. A merger agreement between the two hospitals was signed last July, although both will remain in operation until the new facility is ready for use.

THE NEW hospital will be

Robbery Hearing Ordered

A preliminary hearing has been scheduled Tuesday in Redondo Beach for a 19-year-old Los Angeles man charged with the robbery of a supermarket.

Stanley S. Vance, of 1820 S. Cloverdale St., Los Angeles, was arrested March 3 after he was captured by an off-duty Torrance policeman and a Long Beach man while fleeing from the scene of an automobile accident.

The Long Beach man, Herbert Frieda, had pursued Vance's vehicle from the scene of the robbery at Hawthorne Boulevard and 182nd Street. The police officer, David Siebert, had stopped to investigate the accident.

He was arraigned on the robbery charge last Tuesday.

Home Entered

Theft of a ring, a radio, and \$20 was reported to Torrance police Friday by Donald E. Crawford, 30, of 23843 Stanhurst Ave. Crawford said the theft occurred between 7 a.m. and 6 p.m. while he was at work.

occupied in about three years, it was reported.

Total cost of the hospital complex is estimated at \$7.2 million. Federal and state grants of \$3.2 million have been made under the Hill-Harris Act.

Torrance is one of 10 cities to receive federal assistance for construction of an acute general hospital. Some 50 cities sought funds.

THE PROJECT is the largest undertaking which the community has been called upon to make, Leonard A. Ensminger, administrator of Torrance Memorial Hospital, said Wednesday.

"We hope the community will get behind this project with the same enthusiasm and determination it has given other needed improvements," he said.

C. L. Peterson, administrator at the Riviera Community Hospital, said the new facility would serve some 425,000 people in the South Bay, Peninsula, and Torrance areas.

"THE ORIGINAL Torrance Memorial Hospital was built in 1924 and for the past 43 years has admitted more than 150,000 patients," Ensminger said. "There have been more than 35,000 babies born at the hospital."

Increasing population has created a "critical need for increased hospital beds in this area even before the new facility is completed," Ensminger added.

"Hospital service is a vital part of a growing community. Adequate hospital beds are as necessary as schools, police protection, and churches," he said.

Blast Splits House

A Torrance family left homeless after an explosion Wednesday has begun the work of picking up the pieces with the help of neighbors, Torrance police officers, and the Red Cross.

The family home at 2115 Del Amo Blvd. was virtually destroyed about 9 a.m. Wednesday by an explosion which is believed to have been caused by escaping natural gas.

Angel Acosta, 33, and his wife, Rachael, 30, and their three children escaped with superficial wounds. The children are Nick, 8, Mark, 4, and Patricia, 2. All were treated at Little Company of Mary Hospital.

NEIGHBORS and Torrance police went to work immediately after the explosion to provide the family with food and a place to stay and the American Red Cross stepped in to provide other essentials.

Red Cross officials said the family would be able to buy new clothing and needed furniture.

Mrs. Acosta asked for a new iron, explaining that her iron apparently had been buried in the rubble.

THE EXPLOSION lifted the house off its foundation and caused one wall to split apart from the main structure of the house. A fire at 2122 Del Amo Blvd. was believed caused by backup pressure in the gas line.

Fire Department officials said damage at 2122 Del Amo Blvd. was confined to a service porch.

Gas service to the entire block was cut and many homes in the immediate area were evacuated. Electrical power to the Acosta home also was cut, it was reported.



HOME DESTROYED . . . Five persons escaped serious injury Wednesday when an explosion virtually destroyed their home at 2115 Del Amo Blvd. The explosion, apparently caused by escaping natural gas, occurred about 9 a.m. Torrance Fire Department officials said. Workmen from Southern California Gas Co. shut off all gas service to the block to prevent further damage when pressure in the gas line apparently caused a fire in a neighboring home. (Press-Herald Photo)

Found By Two Divers

The body of 3-year-old Chris Michael Edwards, vacationing with his parents in Riverside County, was taken from the frigid waters of Lake Hemet Friday, nearly 24 hours after he was reported missing from the lakeside campsite of his parents.

The child, son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Edwards of 20021 Pruitt Drive, had been the object of a day long search in the cold lake waters.

"I was afraid of that," the boy's 40-year-old father said when told of the discovery.

RIVERSIDE County Sheriff L. Harley Margraves told the boy's parents about his death.

A search team comprised of two boats, 12 scuba divers, and a ground rescue party of 75 had been searching throughout the area surrounding the lakeside site, where the family's 16-foot house trailer had been parked Thursday afternoon.

THE EDWARDS family, on a desert vacation, had parked the trailer and while the parents set up camp, young Chris apparently wandered off. His large white poodle was found, dripping wet, a short time after the parents missed the boy. Authorities were notified immediately.

Searchers were called in Friday afternoon after divers Vic Keeler and Vern Bohr found the boy's body about 12 feet from shore in three feet of water.

Council to Meet

The Lomita City Council will convene tomorrow at 7 p.m. for its regular meeting.

Chlorine Line Lowered - - -

A pipeline carrying chlorine which three times has been ruptured in construction accidents has been lowered four feet below the gutter level of the street, according to Supervisor Burton W. Chace. The Fourth District supervisor said Stauffer Chemical Co. has advised the County that the lowering had been completed which will permit the contractor to continue work of the 23rd Street and Wilmington Avenue improvement projects. The line was severed last September and twice in February, sending scores to the hospital for treatment after exposure to the dangerous chlorine gas clouds.

Parade to Salute Irish - - -

Torrance's St. Patrick's Day Parade, scheduled here next Saturday, has drawn entries from throughout Southern California, Bob Lydon, president of the Torrance Irish Club, said today. Lydon said television and screen star Barry Sullivan will be grand marshal for the parade, which will begin at 10:30 a.m. An Irish football game and a dance are scheduled for later in the day, he added.

Hearing Due on Theater - - -

Torrance councilmen will meet Tuesday at 8 p.m. in the council chambers at city hall. Major item on the agenda is a public hearing on plans for a drive-in theater near Crenshaw Boulevard and Pacific Coast Highway. The hearing was continued on March 1 to give proponents of the theater and representatives of the city's airport time to discuss the matter. The city's Planning Commission has recommended approval of the request to build the theater, while the Planning Department has asked that the request be denied. Lomita residents adjoining the proposed theater site also oppose the plan.



PLANNED HOSPITAL . . . Architect's drawing shows the new Torrance Memorial Hospital to be built on a 10-acre site near Hawthorne and Lomita boulevards. Officials of Torrance Memorial Hospital and Riviera Community Hospital this past week

launched a fund drive to raise \$3 million. Funds raised in the campaign will supplement state and federal grants which have been approved for the 250-bed hospital. Total cost of the new hospital will be \$7.2 million.

INTO FOUR BOOKS

Plan to Split Phone Directories Approved

A proposal to split the Southern Section telephone directory into four books has been approved by the California Public Utilities Commission (PUC).

The commission said, however, that the directories must be recombined into a single book in October, 1969, unless further authorization is obtained.

The PUC also ordered the two firms involved—Pacific

Telephone Co. and General Telephone Co.—to file a study with the commission no later than Nov. 15, 1967, on the feasibility of shifting Gardena classified listings from the Compton section to the South Bay Section, beginning in October, 1968.

THE TWO companies received permission to abandon the single white pages section of the Southern area and publish four volumes. The four sections will cover the Long Beach exchange, the Redondo Beach-San Pedro-Lomita-Torrance exchanges, the Compton and Downey exchanges, and the Inglewood-El Segundo-Hawthorne exchanges.

Splitting the white pages into four books will save the companies an estimated \$168,000 annually by eliminating the distribution of almost one billion "unneeded pages," it was reported.

The applications were protested by the cities of Gardena, Bellflower, Long Beach, and by representatives of the Wilmington and Carson-Dominguez areas.

AS A RESULT of protests by Gardena, the PUC ordered the telephone companies to study the possibility of including Gardena yellow page listings in the South Bay section, rather than in the Compton section. Pacific Telephone Co. agreed to list Gardena residents in the white page sections of both the South Bay and Compton sections.

Representatives from several areas said the proposed split would increase costs to businessmen wishing to list

in the white pages of all four proposed directories.

Carson-Dominguez area representatives also noted the proposal to divide the directory would split the area which they hope to incorporate. It was also suggested that two directories, with the Harbor Freeway as the dividing line, would be more reasonable.