

Chlorine Gas Escapes From Carson Plant

TO CALL US

Circulation OfficeDA 5-1515
 AdvertisingDA 5-6060
 Women's NewsDA 5-6880
 News DepartmentDA 5-6060

Press-Herald

INSIDE TODAY

Ann LandersC-1 RestaurantsC-8
 EditorialsC-2 SportsD-2
 HollywoodB-6 Women's NewsB-1
 ObituariesA-2 - Want AdsD-4

Series II, Volume IV, No. 56

3238 Sepulveda Blvd., Torrance, California - Wednesday, January 10, 1968

By Carrier 50c Per Month
By Mail, \$18 Per Year

10c Per Copy 78 PAGES



TRAFFIC CRASH . . . Marty Kline, 19, of 2539 W. 235th St., sustained a fractured skull about 5 p.m. Tuesday when the foreign-made car in which he was riding collided with two parked cars on 235th Street near Elm Avenue. Police identified the driver of the car as Daniel Shannon, 21, of 1642 W. Lomita Blvd., Harbor City, who suffered minor injuries. Both Kline and Shannon were taken to Little Company of Mary Hospital. Shannon told police the accelerator jammed. Kline was thrown from the car in the impact and Shannon was pinned between two of the cars. (Press-Herald Photo)

Council Delays Action On Proposed Sign Law

Compromise on New Sign Rules Sought by City

and a small sign may be ugly." The mayor also feels there should be no regulation of signs a merchant puts in his store window.

"WE'RE WORKING to keep downtown Torrance alive," Isen said, stating that the ordinance would cause "unnecessary red tape" and shake the town "uninviting for prospective business."

When asked to provide pictures of signs that would offend the proposed ordinance, City Manager Edward J. Ferraro quipped, "You mean you want an aerial photo of the city?"

Leo F. X. Salisbury, chairman of the Merchants' Sign Committee, was on hand to raise objections to the official sign proposal. Salisbury asked that councilmen appoint a special committee to work out a compromise within 30 days. This committee, he suggested, should be composed of council representatives, Planning Commission representatives, delegates from Torrance Beautiful and the Chamber of Commerce, and himself.

Some 40 citizens interested in the sign question turned out for the meeting.

Term Extended

Ray V. Saukkola was recently elected to his second consecutive term as president of the Torrance City Employees Association, Inc. His term of office will be one year.

A revision of the limits on sign size may also be necessary, Mayor Isen said, since "a large sign can be beautiful."

Lomita Marine Killed - - -

A 20-year-old Lomita Marine was listed by the Department of Defense Tuesday as killed in action in Vietnam. He was identified as Lance Cpl. John G. Turk, son of Mr. and Mrs. John G. Turk of 2435 W. 250th St. Turk was killed at Phu Bai near the DMZ by a Viet Cong sniper, it was reported. He had been wounded last July. A graduate of Fermin Lasuen High School, he attended Harbor College before entering the Marines. Services are pending at McNeerney's Mortuary in San Pedro.

Plan New Post Office - - -

Plans to construct a new North Torrance Post Office were announced yesterday by Postmaster General Lawrence F. O'Brien. The new station will be located on the east side of Crenshaw Boulevard north of 182nd Street and will replace a substation now located at Crenshaw and Artesia boulevards. To be built under the Post Office Department's lease-construction program, the facility will remain on the tax rolls. O'Brien said the site option held by the Post Office will be assigned to the successful bidder, who will construct the facility to government specifications and lease it to the Post Office Department.

Arson Suspected in Blaze - - -

Evidence of arson was discovered last night by Torrance firefighting officials when they responded to a call at Burko Lumber and Hardware, 23831 Hawthorne Blvd. Battalion Chief C. E. Reintsma said that two small blazes caused minor damage to plywood, rolled fiberglass, and a hose house. "Fires like this just don't start by themselves," Reintsma added, stating that a can of lighter fluid and a book of matches were found near one of the blazes. Six firefighting units were dispatched to the scene when a passerby saw smoke rising from the lumber yard.

IN CARSON AREA

26 Felled by Chlorine Gas

Deadly chlorine gas, escaping from a water company service yard in Carson Monday afternoon felled 26 persons.

Eight of those were Firestone Sheriff's deputies. Following treatment at the scene they were taken to St. Francis Hospital in Lynwood for a check-up.

Harbor General Hospital reported treating 12 and admitting one person with an illness aggravated by the gas. Three others were treated at the scene and released.

The incident occurred at 4:05 p.m. when a faulty flange valve on a one-ton cylinder used to chlorinate water at a Dominguez Water Co. yard, 406 E. Carson St., began leaking.

About 200 pounds of gas escaped, causing deputies to close a quarter mile stretch of Carson Street between Grace and Dolores streets for approximately a half hour.

At least 14 homes or small businesses in the immediate vicinity were evacuated.

Under Battalion Chief Wray Nansel, seven fire department units responded and by 4:15 Capt. Andy Vander Weyden of Station 36 had the leak shut off. Wearing a gas mask, he was not injured.

"The leak was serious," Nansel said, "because there was no wind this afternoon and the gas didn't dissipate as it normally would."

BESIDES THE deputies, those treated at the scene with oxygen include James Brown, 39; Jean Causey, 48; and Esther Thompson, 67, all of 415 E. Carson St.

Mrs. Causey, however, was later admitted to Harbor General because the gas aggravated a previous illness. Tuesday afternoon she was reported in good condition.

Among those treated at the hospital was a family of six, including five children, of 409 E. Carson. The family was later identified as that of Mrs. Patricia Preito.

No ambulances were summoned to the scene. Howard Wilkes, an employee of the Dominguez Water Co., said the chlorine cylinder was just installed last Friday. He did not estimate how long it would take to restore the unit to operation.

Neck Wound Sends Man To Hospital

A barroom gun battle sent a Torrance man to Daniel Freeman Memorial Hospital last week with a bullet wound in the neck.

Reported in satisfactory condition Tuesday was Zethel M. Anderson of 18737 S. Crenshaw Blvd. Anderson was shot in the neck at an Inglewood bar the evening of Jan. 2, following an apparent argument with bar owner Lex Horton, 55.

Inglewood police arrested Horton on suspicion of intent to commit murder.

Symphony Concert Scheduled

Accordianist Myron Florin will be featured soloist with the South Bay-Torrance Symphony Orchestra when the group begins its 1968 season Wednesday, Jan. 24.

Miss Alyse Aehle will conduct the orchestra in a program of light classical music.

Admission to the concert, to be held at the Mira Costa High School Auditorium in Manhattan Beach at 8 p.m., is free. Reserved seats may be obtained by calling Miss Aehle.

Assault Charges Jail Trio

Three Torrance men, arrested Sunday in Hawthorne on assault and battery charges, are scheduled to appear in Inglewood Municipal Court Jan. 18 for a preliminary hearing on the charges.

Hawthorne police arrested the trio in a bar at 12330 S. Hawthorne Blvd. following a fight which sent 50-year-old Frank Vogler, a Hawthorne resident, to the hospital with a bloody face and a fractured leg.

The three were identified by police at Herschell M. Finley Jr., 27; Travie T. Thompson, 24; and Donald Ray Graham, 23. All gave their address at 17030 S. Yukon Ave.

They were arraigned on suspicion of two counts each of assault and battery Monday. All three have been ordered to appear before Judge Steven Strothers Jan. 18 for a preliminary hearing.

Finley and Thompson were released on bail. Graham was reported still in custody yesterday.

Vogler, who was treated at Hawthorne Community Hospital and transferred to Harbor General Hospital, was reported in satisfactory condition.

Police said they chased the three Torrance men through several back yards before apprehending them.

Terms of City Aides Extended

Torrance City Councilmen last night appointed a committee of their membership to look into procedures for selection of members of city commissions.

The question of commission appointments presented itself at last night's City Council meeting when City Clerk Vernon Coil informed the Torrance lawmakers that many commissioners' terms expire this week. Mayor Albert Isen said all commissioners would be retained at least until a decision was reached about commission appointments.

The consensus of councilmen was that commission appointments should be more carefully reviewed.

Urban Renewal Purchases Are Ahead of Schedule

The Torrance redevelopment Agency is rapidly acquiring property for the Meadow Park Redevelopment project, located on a 56-acre site west of the Torrance Municipal Airport.

"Acquisitions are going ex-

ceptionally well," according to Richard Wheeler, agency assistant executive director, "and we may surpass our goal of buying 80 per cent of the land within the first year."

Wheeler added that many

of the people living or working within the redevelopment boundaries have indicated that the prices offered for their property are fair.

The agency has already closed \$919,000 in escrows and has an additional \$333,500 worth of property in escrow now. Every day, Wheeler said, a few more parcels are added to the escrow list.

The agency is buying property within the project area with the intent of transforming it into an airport-oriented industrial park. It is estimated that when the park is completed, it will net the city eight times as much in tax revenues as is now being collected.

Two Gunmen Flee With \$125 from Gas Station

Two Torrance service station attendants were bound with electrical cords Sunday night after being robbed at gunpoint. Armed robbers got away with \$125 from a station at 23215 Hawthorne Blvd., police reports indicate.

Attendant Richard D. Johnson, 3634 W. 227th St., was on duty alone at the station when two young men walked into the lube room about 8:30 p.m. One of them pulled a gun

and demanded money from the cash box and office drawer.

The suspects were tying Johnson up in the office when another attendant, Michael Astiazaran, drove in. One of the suspects got the drop on him and reportedly said, "That's good. I don't want another murder rap on my hands."

After securing both attendants loosely with the cords, the suspects fled on foot, taking the station keys with them. Astiazaran and Johnson soon untied themselves, police said.

The suspects were described as 6 feet tall and about 20 years of age. One was well built and the other was slender and looked sick, the attendants told police.

County Gets \$3.3 Million For Streets

SACRAMENTO — Los Angeles County's share of highway users tax distributions during November was \$3,347,486, State Controller Houston I. Flournoy has announced.

For the month, a total of \$29,052,262 went to the state highway fund for expenditure on state highways; \$12,372,803 went directly to the counties, and \$9,207,782 went to the cities.

The total apportionment was derived from the following sources: gasoline tax, \$44,555,487; diesel fuel tax, \$3,929,443; by transfer from the motor vehicle transportation tax fund, \$2,145,592; and the balance from miscellaneous sources.

In addition, Flournoy announced the distribution of \$15,623,471 to cities and counties from the state motor vehicle license fees.

Of this sum, Los Angeles County received \$2,866,339 and Torrance received \$75,168.

Fees for Candidates Now \$100

The filing fee for municipal candidates was raised from \$75 to \$100 at last night's City Council meeting. This revenue will help to defray election expenses. City Clerk Vernon W. Coil had asked that the fee be hiked to \$140.

City Council last night moved toward the eventual ratification of a new City Charter. Councilmen voted to ask the city's Charter Review Committee to organize the revisions it is currently devising so that they may appear on the April 9 ballot.

The Charter Review Committee will meet tonight.



CITY HONORS SERVICE . . . Mayor Albert Isen (left) presents two plaques honoring the Hi-Shear Corp. and its president, George S. Wing, for participating in the annual Armed Forces Day celebration. The awards were accepted by Brian J. Bell, who said "both Hi-Shear and Mr. Wing appreciate the recognition afforded us and we look forward to continued participation in civic affairs in this dynamic city." Wing has served as general chairman of the event, Hi-Shear Corp., located here during the past 10 years, now employs some 1,300 persons. (Press-Herald Photo)