

Runaway Vehicle Hits, Kills Man on Beach

(Story in Column 5)

Torrance

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DEATH CAR . . . Torrance firefighters check a car in which two women were burned to death Wednesday afternoon. Some 10 acres of brush was burned before firefighters extinguished the flames. Killed were Olive Myrtle Murphy, 74, and Emma May Hockinson, 95, both of 2830 El Dorado. Police believe the two women were trying to drive to the top of the hill to take pictures when the accident occurred. (Press-Herald Photo)

Elderly Women Die as Car Bursts Into Flames

Spark Ignites Tank as Tires Stick in Sand

A picture-taking jaunt ended in death for two elderly Torrance women Wednesday at 3 p.m. when their car exploded in flames on a hillside near Pacific Coast Highway and Hillsworth Street.

Burned beyond recognition were Olive Myrtle Murphy, 74, and Emma May Hockinson, 95, both of 2830 El Dorado St.

Police investigators believe the two victims were attempting to reach the top of a grassy hill to take pictures of the Los Angeles panorama when the accident occurred.

WITNESSES told police the women's car was seen mounting the hillside area via a dirt road and then appeared to back rapidly and erratically down the hill, wheeling off the road onto the brush-covered slopes.

Police believe the tinder-dry hillside caught fire when the wheels of the 1964 two-door sedan began spinning wildly as the women attempted to get back onto the road. A possibly faulty gas tank, police said, may have caused the car to explode into flames.

Investigating officers at the scene of the accident believe the women died immediately when the car exploded.

THE PURSE of one of the women contained \$1,148 cash, partially burned, while

the other victim's purse contained \$22.

One witness told police he approached the burning vehicle and attempted to free the driver. However, he said (See WOMEN, Page A-2)

Brakes Fail on Vehicle

A runaway vehicle ran over and killed a Torrance man early Saturday morning, dragging the victim some 48 feet before rolling to a halt on the Torrance beach.

Pronounced dead on arrival at Little Company of Mary Hospital was Robert Joseph Fritzler, 29, of 2270 Sepulveda Blvd.

The freak accident occurred at 5:30 a.m. at the Life-guard Station on the Torrance Beach when a car apparently broke loose from its emergency brake and barreled down the ramp leading to the life guard post, police said.

DRIVER of the vehicle, 19-year-old Steven Zeiser, (See RUNAWAY, Page A-2)

Hearing Slated on Area Freeway Route

Representatives of the Route Planning Department, California Division of Highways, will be present Monday to discuss the various alternative proposed Torrance Freeway routes. This is a continuous freeway from the Route 1 Freeway at Vermont Avenue to the existing San Diego Freeway. Route location studies for the project were started in 1964.

The public presentation is scheduled to begin at 7:30 p.m. at West High School Cafeteria 4.

A second public presentation and discussion by the State Division of Highways is scheduled for Wednesday, July 31, at the South High School Cafeteria at 7:30 p.m. This meeting will cover the same information as Monday's meeting.

The purpose of these local meetings is to provide

the public, with the comparative data, right-of-way costs, alignment, background need, and other pertinent information about the proposed alternative Torrance Freeway routes. Precise location and interchange designs are not determined prior to route adoption. A question and answer period will follow each of the state's public presentations.

Following these local meetings, a formal public hearing will be held under the jurisdiction of the California Division of Highways. While the date of this formal state public hearing has not been set, it is tentatively planned for August or September, 1968.

When the freeway is completed, it will serve as an important link in the California Freeway and Expressway System, which was established by the Legislature as a statewide system

of controlled access highways. This freeway will connect existing and planned freeways in the area and provide benefits to the motorist in terms of increased safety, reduced travel time, and reduced vehicle operating costs.

No Cuts Seen Here in Saturday Mail Service

There are no immediate plans to halt Saturday mail service or close post offices here on Saturdays. Postmaster Carl Backlund told the Press-Herald Friday.

Backlund said no orders to reduce Saturday mail service have come from Postmaster General Marvin Watson.

Watson warned Wednesday that Saturday mail delivery would be ended if the Post Office Department is not exempted from a forced reduction in federal employees. He also warned that post offices would be closed on Saturdays.

Backlund told the Press-Herald that the only effects of a cutback in employees in Torrance are restrictions on the number of employees who can be hired and a ban on any extension of delivery.

He said the Torrance Post Office is now permitted to replace only three of every four employees who leave.

The postmaster also said no new tracts or businesses can be served if they mean an extension of delivery areas. Under this ruling, Backlund explained, home delivery cannot be extended to new tracts or business developments.



VISITS CITY . . . Saulo Musoke (right), 47-year-old director of prosecutions in the Attorney General's Chambers in Uganda, talks with Robert L. Burnett, deputy district attorney in the Torrance office, during a tour of the facilities here. With them is Mrs. Musoke. Musoke is touring the United States to visit various institutions which are concerned with crime problem. He is particularly interested in the organization and administration of prosecution offices. (Press-Herald Photo)



RETURNS HOME . . . Sharon Terrill, Miss California of 1968, is pictured during a press conference held Thursday following her return to Torrance for the first time since she won the beauty title. Sharon, guest of honor at a dinner held last night, described her new role as "just fun" following the initial shock. She will appear at the Miss Texas Pageant, then return to Santa Cruz to prepare for the Miss America Pageant to be held in September. (Press-Herald Photo)

WHIRLWIND TRIP

Miss California Returns To City for Brief Visit

By HAL FISHER
Press-Herald Staff Writer

Sharon's back in town! Returning for the first time since winning the 1968 Miss California title, Sharon Terrill, former Miss Torrance, breezed into a press conference Thursday morning to face the Los Angeles area press for the first time.

The 21-year-old blonde described her new role as "just fun" following the first week after the Santa Cruz pageant.

Her role has already taken her to Redwood City, where she rode in a Fourth of July parade, and to Sacramento to meet Governor Ronald Reagan. During the Sacramento trip, she also was introduced to members of the State Legislature and was officially declared Miss California.

SHARON described Governor Reagan as a "really fine Christian man" and said her meeting with the governor was the high point of her brief reign.

Miss Terrill was guest of honor last night at a dinner sponsored by the Torrance Jaycees and the Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce. She also crowned Darcy Jo Barcroft as Miss Torrance during the evening.

She will make an appearance at the Miss Texas Pageant July 16 through 20 — Sharon was one of the runners-up in the 1966 Miss Texas competition—then return to Santa Cruz where she will live until the Miss

America Pageant in September.

FROM THE Santa Cruz base, Miss California will make appearances throughout the state and attend charm school in preparation for the competition in Atlantic City.

She will place special emphasis on sharpening her talent—dramatic reading —

for the Miss America contest. "I hope to work some comedy into my routine," she quipped.

Does she think she will make a good representative as Miss America?

"Most girls my age are not Mod or extreme," Sharon told newsmen. "I think I represent the normal girl my age."

Award \$475,000 in Deaths . . .

Damages of \$475,000 have been awarded by a Superior Court jury to the families of two men who drowned while working in a sewer line in 1964. The verdicts were returned Friday against the city of Torrance and the Dominguez Water Corp. Mrs. Josefina Alvarado and her five children, of Compton, were awarded \$290,000 for the death of Manuel Alvarado, 25. Mrs. Maria A. Gastelum and her daughter, 1805 W. 246th St., Lomita, were awarded \$185,000 for the death of Rodolfo Gastelum, 29. The two men were killed Nov. 2, 1964, when a water pipe burst while they were working a sewer ditch in the 3900 block of Torrance Boulevard.

Board, Council to Meet . . .

Both the Torrance Board of Education and the City Council have scheduled regular meetings this week. School trustees will convene at 7:30 p.m. tomorrow at the district offices, 2335 Plaza del Amo. The council is scheduled to meet at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday at the City Hall, 3031 Torrance Blvd.

Drug Charge Jails Youth . . .

Torrance police narcotics officers have arrested Gary Lee Owens, 18, of 1660 W. 221st St., on charges of selling LSD-25. Owens was taken into custody Friday at 4 p.m. in a parking lot at 22100 Hawthorne Blvd. Police said they had purchased 10 purple LSD tablets at \$7 each from Owens the night of June 27 in the same parking lot.