

## SCHOOL GANG FIGHTS

A distressed mother of a high school boy came to the Torrance Herald office on Monday and demanded:

"Why cannot the Torrance Herald write an editorial on the boys' gang fights and stop them?"

We inquired as to what was behind her statement. She said, "My boy has been twice beat up in the past week. He is 14 years old and perhaps he is just as much to blame as the rest, but I cannot let him up of his home after dark any more. It just is not safe."

We remarked to the mother of this 14-year-old high school boy that the Torrance Herald is fully cognizant of its obligation as a newspaper to report all the facts and all of the news of the day to its readers.

We further remarked, however, that when we had made reports of certain gang fights in the past, the Los Angeles City Schools were the first to criticize us, declaring that we were trying to blacken the eyes of the schools in an effort to bring about the withdrawal of Torrance schools from the gigantic Los Angeles city system.

Well-meaning ministers of the gospel came to us and appealed to us not to print such items, as it is harmful to the community.

To make our position clear—we are very much in favor of the campaign being carried on so ably by the Torrance Parents' Association in bringing about the withdrawal of Torrance schools from the high and mighty Los Angeles city system. We feel that if this is done, Torrance can have the finest schools in the state, and that local control and local supervision will reduce to a minimum or bring about absolute elimination of student "gang fights."

However, so as to not cloud the issue of "Torrance Schools for Torrance Children," we have complied and we have refrained from mentioning these gang fights. And we have been aware of them.

Now, this mother issues a challenge to us. We must take it up. It is our duty to our readers and to the community. But we must in turn issue the challenge to the Los Angeles school system, for, there, we believe, lies the blame.

Why do we say this?

Let us quote this mother: "My son said that he was beat up once by a Torrance gang (Los Angeles city schools), and the other time by a Gardena gang (Los Angeles city schools). He attends Narbonne high school (Los Angeles city schools), and says that both Banning (Los Angeles city schools) and San Pedro (Los Angeles city schools) have gangs going around at night."

We mentioned the fight that took place in downtown Torrance a couple of weeks ago when police were forced to use tear gas to break it up, and also we mentioned the big gang fight this past week at Westwood.

She promptly declared that the Westwood fight, her son had told her, was a fight between Fremont high school (Los Angeles city schools) and Narbonne high school (Los Angeles City schools) boys, and that he had intended going to the fight.

Chief of Police John Stroh knows that these fights are dangerous, and is not in sympathy with the "no publicity" appeals.

He knows, we know, and this mother knows that these boys are carrying knives, blackjacks, chains and other deadly weapons. But Chief Stroh's hands are tied by lack of manpower and by the fact these boys go elsewhere to do their fighting. They do not fight on home ground.

Local high school principals have made attempts at appealing to the sportsmanship of the boys to stop these fights, but apparently to no good end. Their efforts are to be commended, however.

Apparently they are not aware that they are continuing, however, as there has been no evidence of activity upon the part of the groups charged with maintaining "good sportsmanship" among the schools.

It probably will be said that the schools have no jurisdiction over the boys at night. That may be true, but these are inter-school fights, gang fights between the boys of the different Los Angeles city high schools in this whole area.

Either the schools must accept the challenge and do something about them, or the police and courts must deal with them as they would common criminals.

When blackjacks, pistols, knives, chains and other weapons come into play—crime is being committed.

We of Torrance know that when control of the schools is attained by Torrance, these things can be overcome, because we will have local teachers, real community interest, and local control over these problems.

But now, we say, Los Angeles city schools have a job on their hands, and the Torrance Herald demands action, and gives notice of full publicity to all such future fights called to our attention.

## Many Local Men Serving On Comfort

Hearts of many Torrance families were low Monday when the Navy department announced that Japanese suicide pilots had attacked the U.S.S. Comfort, hospital ship, as it was evacuating in its fully lighted wards several hundred wounded men from Okinawa.

The Japanese plane which hit the aft surgical compartment caused the death of several army nurses and medical officers, and while several Torrance men were serving on the ship it is believed that none was injured since no notification has been received.

Among the local families involved are Myrna Dichter, secretary at Torrance Army hospital, whose husband is serving on the Comfort; Fay Gray, of Longren Aircraft Co., and Ann Fitzgerald, employed at the post office. Since the Navy department notifies next of kin before releasing notices of casualties, it is assumed that Dichter, Charles L. Gray, and J. J. Fitzgerald, the husbands of the local women, were not injured.

First Lieut. Edna M. Raybourn, formerly head dietitian at Torrance Army Hospital, is reportedly attached to the U.S.S. Comfort.

Lt. Raybourn, graduate of the University of Kansas, is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Raybourn, of Evanston, Wyo. She had been stationed here for about a year prior to leaving for overseas duty. Mrs. Charles M. Smith, of Lomita, reports having received several letters from Miss Raybourn in which she asked to be remembered to her friends here.

Since the crew of the Comfort was made up here, and many stationed at the Army hospital in Torrance, there are scores of others in this area who were apprehensive when the first notices of the attack were released by the Navy department.

## Edison Plant Here Blown Out By Juvenile

"The thoughtless act of some juvenile."

This was the decision of the Southern California Edison Company yesterday as the cause of the trouble at the Madrid substation at about 6:30 p.m. Tuesday which resulted in the interruption of service for about 31 minutes.

Officials said that an iron barrel hoop had been thrown into the area of the substation, under the transformer enclosure, causing shorting-out of various lines and resulting in the station "blowing-out."

No estimate of the damage was available, and it will be some time before the substation can be restored to operation, it was said.

Meanwhile, the service usually handled by this station was transferred to another substation.

Light and power in a great area in Torrance and nearby was stopped for the 31 minutes as a result of the costly "kids play," according to police.

Acting as would anyone who had been twice handed the well-known "hot potato," the Torrance Planning Commission Tuesday night took on courage and recommended to the City Council that the eucalyptus trees on the "south-east" side of El Prado be removed and be replaced.

The planning commission, bringing the matter to a head, suggested that every other tree be removed and replaced at this time, the balance to come out at a later date.

"They'll be sorry," was the tone of the "north-westerns" as the decision was made, maintaining that the whole beauty of the civic center and El Prado ave. is dependent upon the eucalyptus trees.

## Planning Body Agrees To Tree Removal Program

The Spanish-American students of Torrance High school will celebrate their national independence day, "Cinco de Mayo" at the school in a program Friday to include dances, music and gay songs of Old Mexico. The program in observance of this day which means so much to the Mexican people will consist of the following:

The Mexican students will sing the Star-Spangled Banner and the Mexican National anthem. A play concerning two American students who are guests in Mexico will be given. They meet two Mexican friends in Mexico, who have attended their school in the United States. These two Mexican students show them around and explain to them what they are celebrating and the meaning of the dances and songs. They tell them that this day means a lot to them because it is the celebration of a great battle fought and won.

The students who are to be in the program are: Nellie Rios, Augustine Soliz, Richard Preston, Peggy Restor, Pearl Ollone, Ramona Delgado, Alice Hernandez, Gloria Lucero, Artie Martinez, Leo Castillo, Gilbert Rojas, Alice Martinez, Alice Duarte, Arnold Garcia, Dorothy Mora, Mary Olmeda, Oita Fernandez, Jessie Ordaz, Rosa Rodriguez, Josie Bustillos, Dolores Valencia.

By JULIE MENNI  
University of Southern California's coach recently visited Torrance High School at a special Boys' League and call.

He is Jeff Cravath, a long time friend and school chum of our own Coach John Winfield. He was introduced by presiding president, Chuck Duane.

After a fireside chat, a technical film of sports, was shown showing the mile race, which was won by Lt. Louis Zamperini, hero of Torrance, and a prisoner of war in Japan.

Varieties of other sports such as, high jumping, pole vaulting, and shot put, gave our own track team some pointers for their seasonal training.

ENTERTAINED HERE . . . Members of the Eastern Star Chapter of Torrance entertained Billie Kerber, Worthy Grand Ruth, State of California, Order of Eastern Star, at a reception in Torrance Civic Auditorium last Thursday. Visitors and local officers at the reception are above, seated, left to right, Lillian Podesta, Worthy Grand Matron, State of California, O. E. S., Mrs. Kerber, and Naoma Brown, Worthy Matron, Torrance Order of Eastern Star. Standing, left to right, Logan Cotton, Worthy Grand Patron, State of California, O. E. S.; Frank Brown, master of ceremonies; Hillman R. Lee, escort of Billie Kerber, and Jack Miller, Worthy Patron, Torrance O. E. S. (Photo by Homer Morgan.)

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## TORRANCE 7TH WAR LOAN DRIVE QUOTA IS FIXED; \$870,000 TO BE RAISED

Torrance Seventh War Loan quota is \$870,000, according to announcement this week by Hillman R. Lee, chairman of the Torrance War Finance committee.

The quota is divided as follows: Individual, \$570,000; "E" bonds, \$365,000; other than "E," \$205,000; corporations \$300,000.

Individual quotas are increased somewhat, according to Chairman Lee, and the drive which starts on May 14 for the Seventh War Loan will be intensified with particular emphasis on individual sales of bond.

Lee declared: "On the eve of the Seventh War Loan Drive which, because of our increased quota, will be the toughest drive we have ever gone into, it might be well to take a look at just what has been accomplished up to date and where we expect to go from here.

"Since the inception of the war finance plan this county has raised many, many millions of dollars for our government. We occupy a most unique part of the treasury program here in our county, Los Angeles County, regularly accounts for approximately 80 per cent of all bonds sold in the 11 counties comprising Southern California. Only in this country of ours could such a tremendous job have been done through volunteer effort.

"When V-E Day comes only half our job will be finished. We still have to prosecute our Pacific war to a successful conclusion, Japan is hanging on the ropes, but we still have to deliver the knockout punch.

"I look forward to the Seventh War Loan Drive with nothing but confidence. I know it is going to be hard. I know it is going to be difficult to dig out the necessary individual bonds and to attain our quotas, but I also know you fellows, and I know that the job is going to be done."

## Japanese School House Damaged Windows Broken

Apparently the work of juveniles, several windows were broken and considerable other damage done at the old Japanese school at Market st. and Gramercy pl., North Torrance, according to police reports.

The vandals entered the building and broke eight windows, tore loose fixtures in the hallways, and did other damage of a costly nature.

Police are investigating reports of various youths seen in the vicinity, it was said.

## Assault Charge Faced for Attack On Local Man

C. L. Bird yesterday was at liberty on \$500 bail pending hearings on charges of assault with a deadly weapon resulting from an attack upon Salvatore Sanchez, of North Lawrence st., at a service station at Hawthorne blvd. and Redondo Beach blvd.

The defendant is alleged by police to have attacked Sanchez with a tire iron, resulting in injuries which caused hospitalization of the complaining witness.

At 8:30 Sybil Moffit and Betty Miller, marshals, escorted into the reception room Frank Brown, past patron, who served as master of ceremonies and gave an inspiring address of welcome. He, in turn, presented the marshals and Juliette Johnson, musician.

Naoma Brown presided as worthy matron, and Jack Miller as worthy patron. Helen Miller served as general chairman of arrangements. Vocal selections by Ethel Ritchie were enjoyed.

A highlight in the presentation of Mrs. Kerber's many handsome gifts by various O.E.S. groups was that featured by Torrance Chapter, whose past matrons headed a full sized flower bedecked simulated trolley car with Helen Miller appropriately garbed, as its motor-matrons of Torrance Chapter, its passengers, were led in "The Trolley Song" by Lorena Ulrich.

LUNCHEON GUESTS

Mrs. Percy Smith recently entertained as her luncheon guests her daughter, Mrs. H. J. Stephenson, of Los Angeles; Mrs. James Timpane and Michael, of Eagle Rock, and Miss Jane Burkert, of San Francisco.

## Lt. Paige Wins Praise as Many Internees Land

Twenty-four hundred persons who formerly were interned by the Japanese in prison camps on Luzon arrived in Los Angeles-Long Beach harbor yesterday, and their praise of Lt. Eldene Paige, Navy nurse of Lomita, was heard everywhere.

Among the hundreds of the victims of the cruel treatment of prisoners, was Kristin Lacey, six-months-old son of Mr. and Mrs. William E. Lacey, of Beverly Hills, who was brought in to being at the world's lowest ebb, at the prison camp on Luzon, with Lieutenant Paige's assistance.

Among those who met the ship in which the former internees were returned was Lt. Dorothy Still, of Long Beach, who said she hoped to see Lieutenant Paige there.

The stories of Japanese atrocity were on the lips of every person coming down the gangways at the harbor, and the determine to exterminate the cause of their suffering could be read on each face.

## Rabid Dog Is Seized; Public Warning Given

Reports of rabid dogs in the Torrance area were crystallized yesterday when Chief of Police John Stroh appealed to all persons who either had touched or were bitten by a small, short-haired, solid black dog about six months old to contact Dr. Smiley at the County Health Center, 2300 Carson st.

The dog was picked up in front of the Safeway store at Sartori and El Prado yesterday afternoon, and it proved that the animal was rabid.

Any child or adult who has touched such a dog, the chief of police said, should contact the County Health Center.

All dogs still are subject to quarantine and leash laws, the chief said, and owners of animals violating this law are subject to immediate arrest.

## Palms May Be Planted in Business Area

Torrance business district will be beautified with the planting of the tall, slender coconas palm, three to the block, under plans submitted by City Park Superintendent Fred Blake and endorsed by the Torrance Chamber of Commerce, the Retail Merchants' Association and the Lions club.

Blake, citing Beverly Hills and Pasadena as instances where the business district appearance has been improved considerably by the planting of these slow-growing and lasting palms, said that the plan could be worked out so as to not interfere with traffic or business, and that their planting would bring people to the area by improving the appearance of the Torrance business district.

The suggestion is to be placed before the City Council at an early meeting, it was said.

## Torrance Pueblo Fund Reaches Half-Way Mark

Chairmen James L. Lynch and Hillman R. Lee, of the Torrance Rotary club, international service clubs and community service committees, report receipt of \$2500 toward the establishment of recreation center and facilities in the Pueblo Village of Torrance.

Father Patrick McGuinness reported collections of \$332.80 in the Church of the Nativity.

The Torrance Industries, service clubs and fraternal organizations are being canvassed for the additional funds needed to complete the center.

Approximately \$2500 additional will be required for the project, according to Lynch.

Checks may be forwarded to President Otto B. Willett, Torrance Rotary Club, 1312 Sartori ave., made payable to the Torrance Rotary Pueblo Fund.

## TORRANCE MAY GET WAR HOUSING ALLOCATIONS, REP. KING TELLS LEWIS

Torrance should be able to secure necessary housing construction under new quotas for the Los Angeles area just approved in Washington, D.C., Congressman Cecil R. King informed Harry B. Lewis, executive secretary, Torrance Chamber of Commerce, in a telegram Wednesday.

Congressman King said: "Priorities have just been approved for Los Angeles County for 6000 privately financed houses the only limitations are that 3000 be constructed to sell at a maximum price of \$7000 per house and 3000 to rent for a maximum rental of \$60 per month per house. Any area within Los Angeles County is eligible so hop right to it for Torrance Harry."

King's telegram was in response to an inquiry from Secretary Lewis calling attention to the Los Angeles County effort to secure more housing in war industry centers.

In the past, Lewis said, Torrance has been considered a part of the "harbor district," and the harbor district cities of San Pedro, Wilmington and Long Beach have always been able to take all of the housing allotted to this area.

However, Torrance is a war industry city with some 60 factories engaged in all-out production, and with a big permanent Navy material redistribution center to employ some 350 civil service men about to be constructed, Lewis told King.

Torrance has been passed up by the war housing, and as a result, the war industries here have had a hard time bringing workers to their factories because of lack of housing and lack of transportation.

King's promise to press the issue on behalf of Torrance may result in at least 750 units of new housing being allocated to the Torrance area, Lewis said.

In furthering Torrance's effort to secure an immediate allocation of war housing, Secretary Lewis dispatched a letter setting for the position of Torrance, following a telephone conversation, to the Federal Housing Administration. The letters read as follows:

"We are faced with a serious housing shortage, which, if not taken care of without undue delay, will hamper the war effort seriously and retard the progress of the general area to the detriment of all factions.

"Torrance and the trading areas in what is termed, 'The Harbor District' for housing and building priorities. This area extends to Long Beach and it is our understanding that several companies in Long Beach and manufacturers in that general district, have been successful in absorbing most of the priorities assigned to the entire Harbor District to the exclusion of other manufacturing districts such as Torrance.

"Twenty-three thousand per-

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## Kresse Returns To Duty; Orris Is Superintendent

O. A. Kresse, general superintendent of the Torrance Works, Columbia Steel Company, resumed his duties this week after an absence of eight months due to illness.

Marshall J. Orris replaced Dudley A. Polhaus, resigned, as rolling mill superintendent, for Columbia Steel Company.

Orris comes from Pittsburgh, where he held the position of assistant rolling mill superintendent for the past nine years. Prior to coming to California he was connected with Carnegie Steel Company in the east starting there in 1913.

Liquor Use Sends Two to Jail; Others Get Stiff Fines

Excessive use of liquor was responsible for the jailing of at least two men and heavy fines to others, last week, according to the records of City Judge Otto B. Willett.

Richard Saske was sentenced to 30 days in the county jail as a habitual drunkard, and B. J. Bruce decided to serve 50 days instead of paying a \$150 fine for driving while drunk.

G. F. Burney paid \$75 and O. J. Kersten paid \$100 following pleadings of guilty to charges of driving while intoxicated.

Fined for Driving While Intoxicated

Four persons accused of drunk driving were fined in City Court during the past week by Judge Otto B. Willett.

They are Myron Friedenberg, \$100; Amanda Mellon, \$100; E. J. White, \$100, and R. E. Ingram, \$75.

## New Class of Selectees Here Enters Service

Selective Service Board 280, Torrance, announced that during March and April 38 registrants had been inducted into the armed forces.

Entering the service from Torrance were: Luigi J. Briganti, 735 Carson st. (Marines); Albert M. Coast, 1870 218th st.; Claude H. Hunt, 21224 S. Main st.; Morris M. Maloy, 812 Amalopolia ave.; Forrest K. McHenry, Jr., 23124 Narbonne ave.; Ralph H. Montague, 2224 230th st., and Gerald F. Pizer, 800 W. Carson st. (Army).

Joe A. Haslam, 2567 Reed dr., and William F. Stelway, 24309 Allene ave., both of Lomita, entered the Army.

Esta A. Metzger, 3722 Weymouth ave., San Pedro, was inducted into the Navy.

William J. Eagers, formerly of 26000 Pennsylvania ave., Lomita, and now of Colton, was among the selectees from the Torrance local board.

Grover C. Whyte Attending Parley In San Francisco

Torrance and Lomita are represented this week at the United Nations Security Conference at San Francisco by Grover C. Whyte, editor and publisher of the Torrance Herald and Lomita News. His views of this important world conference will appear in next week's issue of the two newspapers.



CONVALESCENT . . . Capt. Millard L. Johnson arrived recently for 30 days' convalescent leave following South Pacific duty. He joined his wife, Margaret, and their children, Margery, Dick and LeRoy at their home, 1225 Acacia ave. Capt. Johnson, serving with the Army Engineers, has been active in directing the construction of warehouses, hospitals, airstrips and roads, it is reported. He will report at Hammond General hospital, Modesto, at the conclusion of his leave.



Lt. L. L. Prince Is Awarded Air Medal  
Second Lieutenant Lawrence L. Prince, 20-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Leslie L. Prince, of 1618 Acacia st., Torrance, has been awarded the Air Medal, it was recently announced at the veteran 8th Air Force Flying Fortress station in England.

The citation accompanying the decoration read in part: "For meritorious achievement while serving as pilot of a B-17 Flying Fortress during assigned bombing missions over Nazi Europe."

Lt. Prince, veteran of many bombing missions with the pioneer 379th Bomb Group, took part in the recent heavy assaults on vitally important targets in Berlin, Betzdorf and Minden, as well as several tactical objectives in Germany.

He entered the Army in May, 1943 and won his wings and commission at Pecos, Texas, in June, 1944. Prior to entering service he was a student at Torrance High School.

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