

\$500 REWARD FOR LEE ASSAILANTS

STORE MANAGER RECOVERING FROM VIOLENT ATTACK AS STORES AGAIN ARE CLOSED

Spontaneous reaction of a shocked citizenry to the brutal attack last Friday upon Hillman R. Lee, manager of the J. C. Penney Co. Torrance store, and John Melville, local dairyman who had gone to Lee's rescue after seeing the assault in progress, was the raising of a \$1500 reward fund for information leading to the arrest of the thugs responsible for the attack.

That the fund would exceed \$8000 was indicated last night as more and more pledges flooded the office of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce appointed as trustee for the fund.

Meanwhile, as Lee was making satisfactory recovery in Torrance Memorial hospital, police, assisted by specialists, were following up every clue bearing on the responsibility for the attack, and they said that they looked for a break in the case within 24 hours.

Lee, suffering with a facial fracture, and multiple cuts and bruises resulting from the attack, asked the Torrance Herald to express his appreciation to the hundreds of friends who rallied to his side during the week following the attack, showering him with flowers, cards and good wishes.

Widely Respected
"They could not have picked on any one as an object lesson in defiance of law and order more loved and respected than Hillman R. Lee," was the unanimous declaration of Torrance residents, both from within the ranks of organized labor and from without.

Lee was attacked by two thugs as he lifted the hood of his automobile, parked at the rear of the Torrance Penney store, at 4:30 p. m. Friday, just after he had closed the establishment. The store had been reopened for business that morning on a self-service basis after having been closed by a strike of Retail Clerks Union No. 905 several months ago. No union help was employed on reopening, although clerks were invited to return to work.

As Lee went down, unconscious from the blows about the head and face, Melville rushed to grapple with the thugs. He was attacked by two more men and likewise was rendered unconscious.

Both were rushed immediately to doctors' offices, and Lee was then taken to the Torrance Memorial hospital. Melville was removed to his home suffering with bruises and shock. Lee had lifted the hood of his car to determine what was wrong when the machine would not start. He discovered wires cut and ignition parts removed.

American federation of Labor pickets, carrying retail clerks union placards, had been posted in front of the store shortly after it opened, and they were joined shortly after noon Friday by pickets from the United Steelworkers of America, C. I. O.

C. I. O. Pickets Out
The U. S. A. pickets were withdrawn following the attack upon Lee and Melville.

With the Clerk Union pickets maintaining their lines Saturday, Monday and Tuesday, the Penney and J. J. Newberry Stores continued to operate on the self service basis, with George Noonan, ex-sergeant of the Marine Corps in World War II, as manager of the Penney store.

Yesterday morning, the two stores failed to reopen, and they issued, jointly, a statement in which they vowed to strike in Wilmington and San Pedro, a statement that they were closing "our local stores to prevent violence."

The statement, printed elsewhere in this edition of the Torrance Herald, reads:
"1. Stores operated by the undersigned companies in San Pedro, Wilmington and Torrance were closed February 8th.
"2. The stores were closed in order to prevent any possible recurrence of violence such as the brutal beating of two Torrance citizens, one of whom is the manager of the J. C. Penney store in that community, and the other is the manager of a local retail establishment who came to his assistance."
(Continued on Page 6-A)



LEADER ATTACKED . . . Hillman R. Lee, manager of J. C. Penney Co. Torrance store, and well known civic leader, who is recovering from a violent attack by thugs upon him Friday, after he had closed his store ending the first day's business on a self-service basis.



DEFENDS LEE . . . John Melville, local dairy manager, who rushed to the aid of Hillman R. Lee, manager of the Torrance J. C. Penney Co. store, after he was attacked by thugs Friday. Melville also was severely beaten.

Registrars of Voters Placed In The Field

If you want to vote in the coming General City Election on April 9, you must register on or before Feb. 22—just three weeks from today.

This warning was issued by City Clerk A. H. Bartlett who will be a candidate to succeed himself for a sixth term. He is the only city clerk Torrance ever had, except R. J. Deinger, who was clerk for one year following incorporation of the city in 1921.

In order to accommodate those in Torrance who wish to register for the election, Bartlett has announced that several deputy registrars will be placed in the field. The first, already named, is Mrs. Lela S. Gonner, of 18002 Prairie Ave. She will serve North Torrance.

Those desiring to register can call upon City Clerk Bartlett and his deputies or Mrs. Gonner, Bartlett said.

WALTERIA NOW HAS RADIO HOOKUP WITH TORRANCE

The people of Walteria can now get quick action from the Torrance police department, according to Chief John Stroh, due to the new two-way radio hookup from the Walteria Fire Station to both fire and police departments here.

The radio hookup was completed Feb. 1, and all persons in that district are asked to take advantage of this much needed time saver. Formerly, it was necessary to summon the police through the Redondo Beach telephone exchange.

TORRANCE HERALD

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100 OWNERS OF DOWNTOWN PROPERTY PETITION FOR ALLEY SETBACK REMOVAL

Owners of approximately 100 pieces of land in the central commercial district of Torrance Tuesday night petitioned the City Planning Commission to remove from the city land use ordinance the requirement that commercial buildings set back 10 feet and 15 feet from alley lines.

U.S.A. - C.I.O. Explains Why Pickets Pulled

Requested for a statement by the Torrance Herald, Local 1414, United Steelworkers of America, C.I.O., through Secretary Walter Smith, issued the following remarks regarding their participation in picketing and withdrawal of support following the tragic beating of Hillman R. Lee and John Melville Friday.

"Local Union No. 1414, United Steelworkers of America, C.I.O. takes issue with certain statements in the press, which created the impression that the C. I. O. was making attempts to organize the store clerks in Torrance and was responsible for an attack on Hillman Lee, manager of J. C. Penney's store here in Torrance.

"Of course, we, the steelworkers believe, the entire town of Torrance should be organized and that includes the store clerks, but we of the C.I.O. have no organization in this vicinity to take care of the clerks, and the American Federation has and it has been our policy to cooperate with any and all bona fide unions for the betterment of labor as a whole.

"It seems that J. C. Penney's has been closed by the A. F. L. (Continued on Page 6-A)

150 New Homes Planned On Kettler Estate

Construction of 150 homes on Kettler estate properties south of Sepulveda Blvd. and west of Western ave. is planned, it was revealed yesterday.

The building program awaits only arrangements for water service on the land.

Representatives have approached city officials of Torrance relative to an arrangement for water service through Municipal Improvement District No. 1. It is reported that the Narbonne Ranch Water Co. cannot serve the area because it is a mutual company.

A rate for service outside MID No. 1 could be fixed by the City Council, according to Manager William Stanger, sufficiently high to take care of extra cost to the taxpayers who form MID No. 1.

The matter will be placed before the City Council in the near future, it was said.

REWARD PLEDGE

If you desire to contribute to the reward fund offered for the arrest and conviction of the persons responsible for the attack upon Hillman R. Lee and John Melville, the following pledge is printed for your convenience. Take it to the Torrance Chamber of Commerce office, the chamber having been selected by a group of citizens as the official trustee of the fund.

I, the undersigned, of the County of Los Angeles, State of California, for and in consideration of the advancement of public safety and for the preservation of law and order in the City of Torrance, California, and to the end that justice may be served in the apprehension and conviction of the individual and/or individuals responsible for the assault upon Hillman R. Lee and John Melville in the City of Torrance, on Feb. 1, 1946, do hereby promise and agree to pay to the Torrance Chamber of Commerce, as Trustee, the sum of \$..... upon demand, which said sum shall be a part of a reward to be paid to the person or persons responsible for the arrest and conviction of the individual and/or individuals who committed said assault upon said Hillman R. Lee and John Melville on the date aforesaid.

Torrance Won't Tolerate Cowardly Brutal Attacks

(AN EDITORIAL)

The cowardly sneak attack upon Hillman Lee last Friday and the vicious assault upon John Melville who sought to rescue Lee from the thugs who continued to kick and beat their victim as he lay unconscious, has shocked this entire community. But it has done more. The community is united in its determination to apprehend the attackers and bring them to justice for the full punishment of their crime.

This determination to track down the brutes who attacked Lee and Melville is emphatically expressed in the widespread and spontaneous subscriptions to a reward fund which was initiated this week by a group of local businessmen. The reward offered for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the thugs has already reached a substantial sum and this amount will be greatly increased as soon as others in the community learn of the movement.

A convenient pledge form is printed elsewhere in this issue, which may be signed and left at the office of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce, which civic body is acting as trustee. The names of those pledging will not be published, nor will they be revealed by the trustee organization. Under law, members of the police, sheriff's department or other public law enforcement bodies are not permitted to accept rewards for the performance of their duty. However, the reward offer has the endorsement of Chief of Police John H. Stroh, who with other members of the Torrance Police Department are diligently following up all information which may lead to the arrest of the perpetrator of the attack. ALL INFORMATION OF THIS NATURE SHOULD BE GIVEN DIRECTLY TO CHIEF OF POLICE JOHN STROH.

Whatever the motive of the crime, the attackers could not have selected a citizen of Torrance who is more generally respected and beloved by so wide a circle of loyal friends: Hillman Lee in his quiet, unassuming way has not only numerous occasions, but he has given unstintingly of his time and energy in behalf of his country and the welfare of humanity whenever the call has been sounded. Seven of the eight War Loan Drives were headed by Hillman Lee, and he has been an active leader in Red Cross, Boy Scouts, Community Chest and many other patriotic and welfare activities.

This community owes much to Hillman Lee and this community intends to leave no stone unturned in ferreting out the perpetrators of this brutal attack upon its most beloved citizen.

Likewise, this community is also grateful to John Melville, whose courageous fight against the sluggers probably saved Hillman Lee's life.

INCREASED ASSESSED VALUE OF LAND TO AID FORMATION OF NEW WATER DISTRICT

Increased assessed valuation in North Torrance will enable the people of that area to have an adequate water system without the necessity of including the property of the General Petroleum Corp. in the district.

This was revealed as the County Assessor's office was in the process of readjusting the assessment rolls in that area and other parts of the county.

It is estimated that an average increase in assessed value of 10 per cent will be the result of the present findings of the assessor's office.

That being the case, it is pointed out, the district will be able to bond itself for at least \$185,000, without including the land south of 190th st.

The \$185,000 is sufficient to cover the territory north of 190th st. with a grid system of pipelines one half mile apart, authorities said.

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Old Weston Home Place Here Sold

Sale of the old Weston ranch homeplace, built more than 50 years ago, to L. H. Bigelow, retired Standard Oil Co. executive, was revealed this week by Ben Weston.

Bigelow purchased three acres of ground with the several building on the property which has been in the hands of the Weston family since 1860. It is located at 3000 Newton st.

The Weston ranch formerly consisted of 2600 acres and took in all territory within the present city limits of Torrance between Sepulveda Blvd. and Palos Verdes. The Torrance Army airport is the most recent large piece of land sold by the ranch interests, the government buying the 400 odd acres for military purposes.

Approximately 400 acres remain in the ranch, and there has been considerable talk about development of the remaining land as soon as materials for home construction are available.

It was reported that the Bigelow family, including a son, Lorin, just discharged from the Navy, will live on their recently acquired property, and that the son may engage in a nursery development. He was with Armstrong nursery before entering the Navy.

The couple have a 10 year old son, James, who became ill after his mother departed. The boy now is reported feeling better and has returned to his school classes. Carter plans to return to Tulsa for a visit later this week.

COUNCIL ASKS TAXI CAB OPERATORS TO FILE RATE SCHEDULES BY FEBRUARY 13

Taxi cab companies of Torrance were given notice Tuesday night by the City Council to file schedules of rates which they anticipate charging under the terms of the taxi cab regulating ordinance which will be considered on Feb. 13.

The request for the filing of maximum and minimum rates was made by the council after a hearing which was asked by taxi cab owners.

The terms of the proposed ordinance were discussed fully, especially as it applies to rates, colors and the number of passengers carried on each trip.

The ordinance provides, among other things, that the owner and operator of a cab must provide evidence of financial responsibility; that his business venture will be profitable but not a damage previous operators already in business; that a definite color scheme or monogram be employed to identify cabs of each company; that insurance of \$10,000 be carried for the death or injury of one person, \$20,000 for two or more persons, and \$5000 for the injury or destruction of property in one accident; that cabs stands be regulated; that the name of the operator be posted within the cab in sight of passengers; that the first passenger hiring the cab has exclusive right to it for his trip unless he consents to picking up additional passengers; that fares be posted with the city in lieu of installation of taximeters; that a license fee of \$25 per cab be paid; that licenses may be suspended upon arrest for or conviction of a felony, or for arrest for or conviction of book-making, gambling, reckless driving, pandering, use of or traffic in narcotics, assault, battery, or overcharge of rates.

Penalties provided are \$300 fine or 3 months in jail.

At the hearing Tuesday night, Robert E. Benton, representing the City Taxi Company, said that the ordinance is one of the best he has ever read. He said that he had considerable to do with drafting of the county's ordinance.

Companies represented Tuesday night said that they would file the rate schedules requested by the council.

All permits will run for the fiscal year ending June 30.

The council said that the new ordinance is necessary to regulate the taxi cab business, eliminate possibility of lawlessness and to protect the people from unscrupulous drivers.

Missing Woman Turns Up In Former Home

Mrs. Anna Lee Carter, reported missing from her home, 1423 1/2 W. 219th st., last Jan. 24, has turned up in Tulsa, Okla., according to her husband, James Carter.

Carter said that he had at first thought his wife had been victim of foul play, but after two weeks' absence, Mrs. Carter wrote her husband a letter from their home in Oklahoma.

Carter said that his wife was unable to explain the manner in which she had left, but did say that she found herself suddenly afraid of "things" here, and just had to get back to their former home.

The couple have a 10 year old son, James, who became ill after his mother departed. The boy now is reported feeling better and has returned to his school classes. Carter plans to return to Tulsa for a visit later this week.

Torrance Weather Record

Official U. S. Weather Bureau

TEMPERATURE			
Jan.	Maxi-	Mini-	Set
31	48	38	58
31	70	32	68
Feb.	Maxi-	Mini-	Set
1	74	37	61
2	68	34	64
3	68	32	64
4	64	34	65

PRECIPITATION

Feb.	Storm
3	.67
4	.12

Ask the Professor

(By H. F. Noake)

Dear Professor: Do you think the rocket plane will be the last word in transportation?
Answer: No dearie. I think the hearse will be the last.