

Small Child Dies Under Wheels of Grandfather's Car in Lomita Tragedy

Thugs Hear Sunday Sermon Linger to Loot Church Safe

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SIFTING CLUES . . . Det. Sgt. Percy Bennett of the Torrance Police Department Monday morning checked fingerprints near the safe at the First Church of Christ Scientist of Torrance, 1750 Manuel avenue. The church office was broken into and \$38.85 in cash and checks were emptied from the safe. Herald Photo.

Detectives Sift Clues After Yeggs Depart With Sunday Offering

Two safe crackers, who police believe entered the First Church of Christ, Scientist, here Sunday morning posing as regular church members, strongarmed their way into the church wall safe and escaped with \$38.85 cash and a \$14 check.

Mrs. Phoebe Fulton a church member, notified the Torrance police department Monday morning when upon entering the church office she found the safe door ajar.

Religious books which had occupied the shelves behind which the safe is located, were in violent disarray.

Det. Capt. Ernie Ashton of the Torrance police, indicated that the bandits probably remained in the church after the regular mid-day service ended at 12:30. Then, he declared, they either set the night latch for a later entry or completed their work Sunday afternoon.

Crowbars were used to gain entrance to the church office and to open the safe, Capt. Ashton said.

'Painless' Bond Issue For More Water Proposed

A water bond issue—if Torrance is going to continue to grow as an industrial city, must be on the ballot sometime in the early part of 1950, it was indicated at Monday's meeting of the water board.

The city council, sitting as the water board, invited two additional firms to make a proposal for surveying the city's water needs for the next 40 years. Three Aydo-engineering firms already have submitted bids for the job.

Superintendent William Stanger who claimed that Torrance lost the Lever Bros. soap factory because the water supply was not available, stated that machinery for a \$2,000,000 bond issue could be set in motion for the April election.

"This will be a very painless bond issue for the taxpayer," Stanger pointed out. "Under recent legislation bonding companies are now able to allow water agencies to retire bonds from revenue gained through operation. This means that the bill is paid by the water users—not the taxpayer."

"Not only is industry being shunted to other areas, but new home builders likewise are being forced to build tracts in other sections of Southern California. We do not have the pipe nor the money to buy the necessary pipe," Stanger said.

"In some cases new developers are willing to supply the pipe and we have been forced to refuse the offer because our mains are no longer large enough to supply the demand."

Local Roofer Hurt in Fall

Falling from the roof of a new home last Friday, George H. Raemer, part owner of Scotty's Roofing Service, suffered a broken leg and wrist, according to a company official.

Raemer, partner of James H. Scott of the local roofing firm, 1226 Border avenue barely missed being killed in the accident. He brushed against stone steps in his fall. His glasses were driven into his face as he scraped against the steps reports indicated.

Raemer who lives at 1642 West 213th street, is confined to the Torrance Memorial hospital with a broken right leg, fractured left wrist, and minor cuts.

He was taken by Sullivan's Ambulance to the office of Dr. William Laughon. He is currently being attended by Dr. Eugene Cook.

Registration Puts City Over 20,000 Census Estimate

Recent vote-registration figures made available this week indicate Torrance's population has reached a new high of 20,195 persons.

The estimate is based on figures released this week by Benjamin S. Hite, county registrar of voters, which set the number of persons registering in Torrance at 8078.

A. H. Bartlett, city clerk, who made the latest estimate of Torrance's population, said he has found that throughout the years the city's population is always very close to two-and-one-half times the registration.

"An actual census," Bartlett stated, "would be very close to the estimated population."

The record registration exceeds by 333 the record of 7745 set last year for the presidential

election.

In Torrance Democrats continued to lead Republicans by more than a two-one margin in registration, Hite's figures indicated.

By parties the registration was:

Democrats 5173
Republicans 2388
Prohibition 9
Independent-Progressive 29
Declined to State 459
Miscellaneous 20

County-wide, Democrats continue to maintain a 3 to 2 lead in registration over Republicans, the same ratio as existed last November, Hite disclosed. Total registration is 1,940,132, a drop of 182,726, or 8.6 per cent over 858 established last year. "The record registration of 2,122,222," Hite revealed, "is due primarily to the elimination from the rolls of all voters who failed to ballot in the state-wide elections in 1948."

Thirty of the 45 incorporated cities and 69 of the 94 unincorporated areas show Democrats in the lead, he reported.

Youth Group Seeks Aid

Letters, urging the support of the local Teenagers Recreation Club, were sent to Torrance civic, service and church groups Monday by Frank Jakubowski, adult leader.

The Teenagers have requested a coordinating council made up of representatives of local groups and clubs to help in the organization and maintenance of the youth group.



STAR AT MEET . . . Beauteous Rosemary DeCamp, Torrance's contribution to the movie and radio and video industries, is slated to be a guest at a night meeting of the Harbor District Chambers of Commerce at the Civic Auditorium. She is the wife of Judge John A. Shidler, local attorney. Members of Torrance's official family, headed by Mayor pro-tem George Powell also are slated to attend.

Harbor District Chamber Leaders Meet Tonight

Torrance tonight will be port-of-call for the Harbor District Chambers of Commerce, City officials, headed by Mayor pro-tem George Powell will join with the local chamber of commerce in greeting the group at their conclave at Civic Auditorium, 6:30 p.m.

The local Kiwanis and Rotary Clubs will convene at the session in place of their usual weekly meetings. Glamorous Rosemary DeCamp, local motion picture, radio and video star, will add lustre to the gathering.

In charge of the meet, which will feature a discussion of various chamber activities, will be Mrs. Gertrude Austin, Compton attorney.

Attend Police Meet

Torrance Police Chief John H. Stroh and Lucille Stroh, police matron, Saturday returned from a four-day convention of the California State Police Officers, held at Folsom.



TRAGIC . . . Kenneth Ronald Hale, 2½ died yesterday in his own driveway under the wheels of backing auto. (Photo by Kyle Mallot).

Grandfather 72, Collapses From Heart Attack on Scene

The handsome, two-year-old son of a Lomita war hero was crushed to death yesterday under the wheels of an auto driven by his 72-year-old grandfather, who nearly died from shock at the sight of the tragedy.

Blood, blue-eyed Kenneth Ronald Hale, Jr., 2½, was killed at play in the dirt driveway of his home at 28203 Oak street, Lomita.

His father, a survivor of the infamous Bataan "Death March" and prisoner of war for 44 months, was in a state of collapse and, with the lad's distraught mother, was being comforted by relatives and friends.

Deputies said the boy's head was crushed when he crawled under the car while it was backing out of the driveway. When the grandfather, Andrew Obed Hale, leaped from the auto and saw the child, he collapsed with a heart attack and was rushed to Harbor General Hospital in Sullivan's Ambulance respirator unit.

He was convalescing at home late yesterday and expected to recover.

The mother of the boy was at home when the accident occurred, but the father sped to the scene from the Coy Construction Co. of Lomita, where he is employed.

When officers arrived, an uncle, Bane Hale, was sitting on the porch step holding the tiny, pathetic figure wrapped in a bathrobe.

The father, Kenneth Ronald Hale Sr., served in the Army Medical Corps during the war and was an inmate of Japan's "Omaha" prisoner of war camp for many months.

Survivors in addition to those mentioned include his sister, Sandra Lee, eight months, a paternal grandmother, Mrs. A. O. Hale, 28123 Oak St., Lomita, and maternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Wells of Walnut street, Lomita, who were in Arizona yesterday.

Jack Hale of Anapola street, Torrance is an uncle of the boy.

Funeral arrangements are being handled by Gamby Mortuary of Lomita.

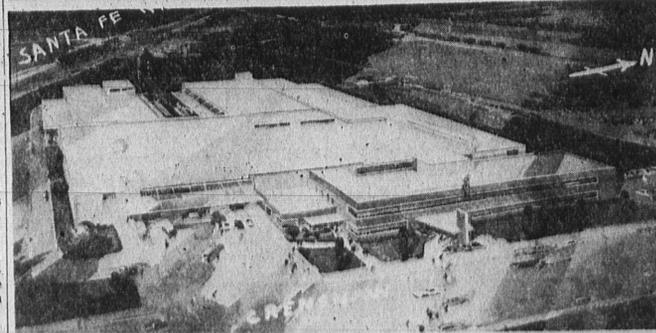
SPORTS

BULLETIN

Here are the lineups, complete with final changes, of the Torrance and Santa Monica varsity squads who clash at Torrance High School field tomorrow night. Game time is 8 p.m. The Santa Monica Vikings are defending Bay League champions.

TORRANCE				SANTA MONICA			
No.	Wt.	Pos.	Wt.	No.	Wt.	Pos.	Wt.
12 Kulp, John	154 (SR)	LE	(SR)	155	Wildner, David	35	
44 Costa, Frank	158 (SR)	LT	(SR)	219	Chatham, John	43	
34 Ferguson, Dick	148 (J)	LG	(J)	209	Lucky, Bill	40	
59 Douroux, Peter	170 (SR)	C	(J)	150	Menott, Jack	22	
48 Jones, Beryl	155 (F)	RG	(J)	185	Carlson, Fred	41	
69 Dimon, Herb	160 (SR)	RT	(SR)	190	Brow, Jim	44	
33 Vaughn, Wendel	165 (SR)	RE	(SR)	185	Savage, Robert	13	
13 Crawford, Boyd	153 (SR)	QB	(SR)	160	Exley, Landon	13	
11 Farer, Jack	147 (J)	F	(SR)	205	O'Brien, Parry	34	
30 Dandoy, Aramis	150 (J)	LH	(SR)	165	Smith, Frank	39	
52 Higgins, Ronnie	154 (SR)	RH	(J)	165	Lugo, Tom	32	

(SR) Indicates Senior; (J) Indicates Junior.



PROPOSED PAINT PLANT . . . Architectural artists moistened their brushes to create their version of what Torrance's new paint plant will look like. Awarding of bids for construction of the \$1,500,000 plant by the Pittsburgh Plate Glass Co. is expected soon. The huge layout will occupy a 15-acre site immediately northwest of Crenshaw boulevard and Dominguez street, a few minutes' drive from downtown Torrance. Plans for the project include offices, manufacturing units and warehouse space.



NEW ANGLE . . . Fire Chief John E. McMaster inspects Torrance's new fire engine to call attention to this week—National Fire Prevention Week. —Herald Photo