

JURY CLEARS BAND DIRECTOR

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13

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A DOG'S BEST FRIEND . . . In this case is Captain Gene Walker of the Torrance Fire Department. Charlotte, a German Shepherd with a seven-inch neckline became too nosy with a bulk oil can with a six-inch neck. Firemen first drilled holes so the 2½-year-old pup could breathe and then spent an hour cutting the animal free. The pup came out unscathed while Captain Walker, with a skinned knuckle, quipped: "I think I'm entitled to a Pup-le Heart."

Surprise Visit

Governor Lands at Local Flight Strip

With no advance fanfare, Governor Earl Warren landed at Torrance Municipal Airport Sunday and was whisked away to San Pedro in a California Highway Patrol car.

So unexpected was the visit from the state's chief executive that Ed Dietrich Jr., airport operator, wasn't even on hand to greet the distinguished visitor.

Warren landed at the local strip about 9:30 a.m., a passenger in his twin-engine Beechcraft plane, which was two hours out of Sacramento.

Herb Schamber, startled airport attendant, said the governor and his crew made a few highly complimentary remarks about the local facilities and had the plane serviced there. The pilot flew over to Burbank airport to pick up Warren for the return trip Monday.

The governor used the plane's mobile telephone to inform the Highway Patrol of pending arrival here. Purpose of the trip was to attend the Fishermen's Fiesta last weekend in San Pedro.

City Plans to Resume Checkoff for Employees

Authorization cards were being signed by city employees this week, which will enable City Accountant C. A. Curtiss to reinstate the checkoff deductions recently stopped by order of the City Council.

At last week's council meeting, it was voted to restore

the checkoff privileges to the city workers when it was learned that the CIO had recognized their affiliation with the Government and Civic Workers Organizing Committee of the CIO. The city will start collecting dues again on the Oct. 5 payroll, according to Curtiss.

Proposition No. 1

Issue May Force Sales Tax Boost

Jury Rules Driver Not Negligent

James Van Dyck, 36, director of the Torrance Area Youth Band, was cleared late yesterday of negligence in the traffic death of an elderly Torrance pedestrian who died in Harbor General Hospital last week.

Returning a verdict which found that "death was accidental and that no one was criminally liable therefor," a coroner's jury cleared Van Dyck of any liability in the death of 88-year-old William H. Greene, of 704 Cota avenue, who was injured several weeks ago.

According to Torrance police, Greene was struck by a car driven by Van Dyck on the night of Sept. 5 while attempting to cross Torrance boulevard at Cota avenue after alighting from a bus at that intersection. The band leader, who lives at 1646 West 216th street, was not held at the time of the accident.

Headquarters Is Just One Big Family

Headquarters Company of the 578th Engineer Combat Battalion is strictly a family affair as far as several Torrance residents are concerned.

A recent check of the company roster revealed that three sets of brothers from Torrance were members of the unit.

Sgt. Norman Baker and Pfc. David Baker, of 1518 Amapola avenue; Cpl. Rudy Flores and Pfc. Benny Q. Flores, of 2101 West 203rd street; and Pfc. Homer Armagost and Pvt. Carl Armagost, of 1617 West 224th street, packed up and left town with the 40th Infantry Division when it went into Federal service Sept. 1.

Two other sets of harbor area brothers are in the company, now training in Camp Cooke near San Luis Obispo.

Jesse and Rodney Puckett, both sergeants, hail from 26309 Governor avenue, Harbor City; and Ret. Wallace Lewien and Sgt. 1/c. Leland E. Lewien, list their home addresses as 1038 Avalon boulevard, Wilmington.



—HERALD PHOTO

'Blame No One For This'

Suicide Victim Calls Daughter; Shoots Self

Phoning his daughter that he was going to Pacific Coast highway and Crenshaw boulevard to kill himself, a 49-year-old former Lomita resident went directly to the spot a few moments later and shot himself through the mouth with a rifle last Tuesday afternoon.

The deceased was Stanley M. Booth, living prior to his death in Long Beach, but until recently a resident of 24711 Walnut street, Lomita. He had been employed at Chandler's Palos Verdes Sand and Gravel Company.

After hearing her father's threat, Mrs. James L. Proctor, 1986 Caspian avenue, phoned her husband, who sped to the spot to find the suicide victim lying in a thicket a block south of busy Highway 101 and Crenshaw boulevard.

On the seat of the victim's auto was a note: "Don't blame no one for this." It was signed: "S. M. Booth." Services will be held Friday

City Facing Loss Of \$150,000 If Prop. No. 1 Passes

Facing a loss of \$150,000 if Proposition No. 1 passes November 7, City Manager George Stevens alerted the Council Tuesday night to prepare to make up the loss the following day by hiking the city sales tax and/or doubling business licenses.

In a lengthy documentary study of the controversial issue which would exempt all personal property from taxation, Stevens told the Council that two possible avenues of escape were open to the city fathers:

Recommended were:

1. (a) Doubling business license taxes, effective January 1, 1951.
- (b) Increase sales tax from ½ of 1 per cent to 1½ per cent, effective November 8, 1950, or as an alternative;
2. Increase sales tax from ½ of 1 per cent to 2½ per cent, effective the day following the election if Proposition No. 1 passes.

If the latter proposal was adopted as return-the-revenue measure, the sales tax would then be 5½ cents on the dollar. Stevens' first proposal, if adopted by the Council, would up the sales tax to 4½ cents on the dollar.

WARNS COUNCIL
In warning the Council and the residents of the city of the consequences facing them if Proposition No. 1 passes, Stevens labeled the ballot issue as "an irresponsible proposition."

He said that if the proposition

(Continued on Page 2)

New Law Would Halt Political Springboarding

Aimed at stopping political bartering on city commissions and boards and preventing members from using the jobs as springboards for political gains, was an ordinance passed by the Torrance City Council Tuesday night.

It passed by a vote of three to two—but not without challenge from Councilmen George C. Powell and Nick Draie.

TABLED ONCE
The ordinance was originally proposed by City Attorney C. Douglass Smith shortly before the councilmanic election last April. It was tabled at that time because the members of the last

(Continued on Page 2)



OPEN SESAME . . . Mrs. M. L. Hartley surveys damage to the interior wall of her dining room caused early Sunday morning when a car containing three Lomita youths ended an 80-mile-an-hour wild ride by crashing into the side of her home. The entire room was shoved from its foundation, with damage estimated at \$3000. (Herald photo).

Car Rams \$3000 Hole in Madrid Ave. Home

Unexpected and unwelcome guests crashed into the home of Mr. and Mrs. M. L. Hartley, 918 Madrid avenue, early Sunday morning and caused \$3000 damage to the home by their unorthodox entry.

Jarred several inches off the foundation, the Hartley home now has a large hole in the dining room caused by the impact of a careening auto.

SAILOR ARRESTED
According to Captain Frank J. Schumacher and Patrolman Don Miller of the Torrance Police Department, a 21-year-old Lomita sailor, believed to have been the driver of the auto which jumped the curb and smashed into the stucco house, was booked on a charge of hit and run-property damage.

The youth, now out on \$500 bail, is Selma D. Burtness 24315 Eshelman avenue.

HURT SLIGHTLY
Treated for minor injuries at the Harbor General Hospital were two companions of Burtness, Eddie A. Ryan, 20 24350 Pennsylvania avenue, and Bruce A. Beckman, 20 24301 Lomita Drive. They were not held.

According to the police reports, the Burtness auto crashed into the front of the Hartley home about 1 a.m. Sunday morning and then backed away from the house, over a six-foot pepper tree, and sped away. The Hartley's son, Dick Carrow, 18, followed the hit-and-run car and later aided the Torrance Police in taking the three into custody.

They were found, shaken and suffering slight injuries, in the 1800 block on El Prado.

Burtness is slated to appear in City Judge Otto B. Willett's court on October 5 for hearing.

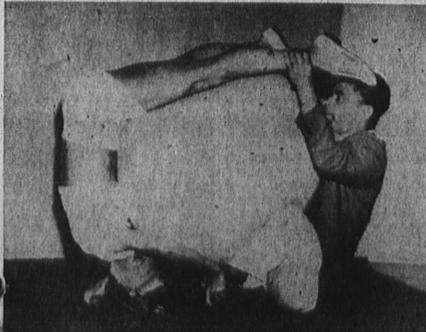


CPL. CHARLES COWART . . . Reported Missing

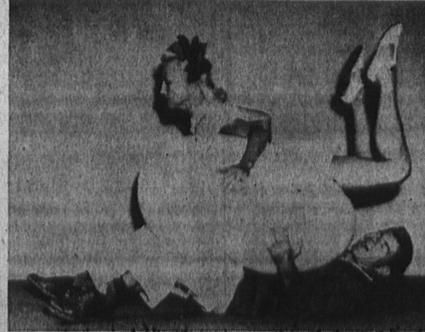
Mother Told Son Missing In Action

The mother of Cpl. Charles C. Cowart, 24 1055 Maple street, has been advised by the War Department that her son has been missing in action in Korea since August 27.

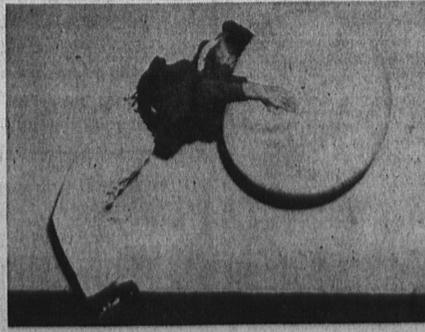
Earlier last month the boy's mother, Mrs. Teresa Painter, had been advised that her son, a veteran of World War II, had been wounded in action August 10 but had been returned to duty August 16.



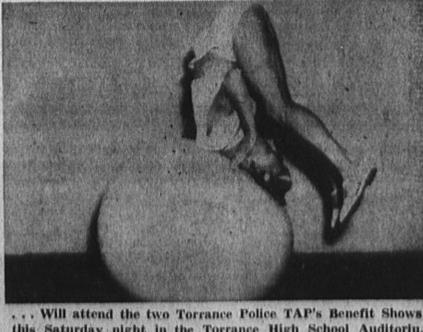
Dick and Dinah Go To Almost Any Extreme . . .



. . . And Will Bend Over Backwards To Give . . .



. . . An Impressive Performance For Those Who . . .



. . . Will attend the two Torrance Police TAP's Benefit Shows this Saturday night in the Torrance High School Auditorium. Tickets are \$1.25. Performances start at 7 and 9:30 p.m.