

Torrance Sailor Killed on St. Paul Cruiser Blast

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GUNNER'S MATE GEORGE COSTA  
... Killed in ship blast

Young Father Among 30 Lost in Disaster

Only last Wednesday a Torrance mother of three small children received a letter from her Navy husband telling her that he planned to be home early in June.

Two days later, Friday morning, she received another letter—and learned that he never was to come home again.

George Costa, 33, a 14-year Navy veteran, was one of 30 men killed in a fiery blast aboard the heavy cruiser St. Paul while her guns blasted away at Communists in the Korean hills Monday.

The Costas, George and Norma, lived at 2756 Gramercy Ave. with their three children, Ethel, 10; Sharon, 8½; and Georgina, 17 months. They have lived here for 2½ years.

The explosion which ripped through a forward gun turret rocked the huge ship as if it had been struck by shore batteries. There were no survivors.

Costa, a gunner's mate first

Armed Guards Put On National Parking Lot

Car strippers might well take heed of a warning issued this week by officials of the National Supply Co.

The company parking lot located south of Carson St. at Border Ave. has been a virtual parts store for fender skirts, batteries, hub caps and other auto accessories, despite a six-foot cyclone fence topped with barbed wire.

National Supply officials warned this week that the lot is now under the protection of an armed guard who has orders to apprehend anyone seen in the lot.

First suspect nabbed by the guards last week is now awaiting a hearing before juvenile authorities in Los Angeles.

"That lot is private property, and we are not going to let it be a supply lot for radios and other accessories any longer," David M. Soule, superintendent of industrial relations, said yesterday.

He said the company was going to inform Chief of Police John Stroh that the guards on the lot were being given instructions to shoot any unauthorized persons on the lot if such action is needed to apprehend them.

class, came home last May 15 after serving several months in the Pacific waters. He saw his youngest daughter, Georgina, who was then six months old, for the first time.

Navy officials, who called the disaster the worst in 22 months of Korean warfare, blamed the explosion on a "gunpowder fire of undetermined origin." An investigation was ordered.

Most of those who survived the blinding flash of the powder were overcome quickly by poisonous fumes; most of the victims were asphyxiated, the Navy said.

The St. Paul, which underwent major repairs after she came home last May, sailed again for Korea November 5.

Surviving Costa, other than his widow and three children, are his mother and father; three sisters and three brothers, all of Fall River, Mass., and a grandmother, of Cape Cod, Mass.

Another local man, Seaman Charles E. Masterman, son of Mr. and Mrs. L. W. Masterman, 616 E. Carson St., is believed to be serving aboard the St. Paul. He was not listed among the casualties.

Five-Year-Old Injured as Car Rams School Bus

Little Verda Foster, 22504 Ocean Ave., received minor facial lacerations and cut lips after the school bus in which she was riding was hit from the rear by another car, Friday afternoon, at Hawthorne Blvd. and 227th St., police report.

Driver of the vehicle which collided with the bus was listed as James E. Weese, 1021 Cravens Ave. He was not cited, records show.

Bus driver was Willard E. Irwin, 1408 Engracia Ave., according to officers D. S. Hamilton and J. Thompson. None of the other passengers in the school bus were hurt.

Business District Threatened By Lack of Parking Facilities

Need Parking Now Merchants Warned

Torrance vitally needs an additional 350 parking spaces in the central shopping district, Torrance merchants were told at a meeting of the Parking Authority Thursday evening.

Speaking to a small audience which included only a half dozen merchants, C. T. Rippey, chairman of the Parking Authority, said that the development of each lot in Torrance from now on means the cutting of business for downtown merchants.

His statements on the urgency of the parking situation were challenged by Atty. Al Isen, who said:

"I question that there is a present parking problem; our parking problem is in the future—five years from now."

Isen later amended his remarks to say that he agreed that the parking was a serious problem now, but that the problem would have to be licked now if there was to be any hope of having parking in the future.

Bernard Lee, a Sartori Ave. merchant, offered the Parking Authority a list of suggestions which he thought would alleviate the situation. He asked that the committee members contact the employers and employees in an effort to reduce "non-customer" parking in the downtown area; put up signs showing where the off-street parking was located, and investigate the possibility of alley parking.

Chairman Rippey opened the meeting by saying that the Authority would call a special meeting and send out notices before making a final recommendation. He immediately pointed out that the group did not have any authority on the installation of parking meters on downtown streets—the group has authority only to seek and acquire off-street parking facilities.

Rippey reported that his committee sent out more than 200 questionnaires to merchants, landowners and professional men of Torrance and received 189 replies.

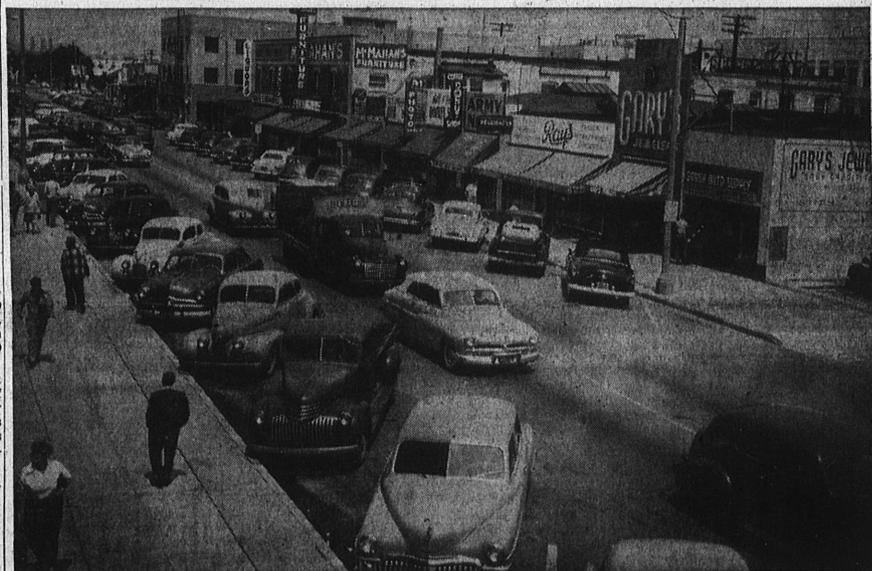
Those replying reported that they owned or leased a total of 695 parking spaces, and they reported that 550 of those spaces are occupied daily by employers and employees working downtown.

Boy Bruised In Collision

Nursing a couple of painful bruises yesterday was 5½-year-old Richard Verry, who received slight injuries in a two-car accident Friday at 216th St. and Denker Ave.

Young Richard was a passenger in an auto driven by his mother, Mrs. Luvajean Verry, 32, of 1524 W. 223rd St., when the auto collided with one driven by Billy Sims, 18, of 1620½ W. 220th St.

Richard was treated by a private physician.



THE BIG HUNT . . . Hundreds of motorists went around and around again yesterday looking for those hard-to-find parking spaces in the downtown area. This photo, taken at 11 a.m. yesterday, shows the congestion of cars along Sartori Ave. between Marcelina and El Prado. The situation was about the same on Marcelina, Cravens, El Prado, Post and other downtown streets. The Parking Authority is attempting to find room for these cars to park off the street.

Eggs, Butter Taken

Some 30 dozen of eggs, 6 pounds of butter and 2 pounds of butter chips were carted away from the Lorraine Dairy, 17235 Arlington Ave., by thieves early Friday morning, police report.

Dogs May Get Anti-Rabies Shots at Cost

Arrangements to give anti-rabies shots to dogs of the area have been completed with the cooperation of the veterinarians of the area, according to Ralph Blonk of the South Bay Humane Society.

Anti-rabies shots will be given at cost (\$2.00) at the society headquarters, 20336 Earl St., in West Torrance, from 8 a. m. until 10 a. m. Tuesday, April 29, Blonk said.

The rabies epidemic now sweeping the county, although not reported in Torrance, is close enough to be very dangerous, Blonk said. He said cases have been reported in Lennox and in the Keystone area.

If enough persons respond to the offer to have their dogs vaccinated at cost Tuesday, the veterinarians will also make their services available next Friday, May 2, and on Tuesday, May 6, Blonk said.

Rain Over But Expect Winds, Is WM's Guess

That storm which puddled the streets Friday evening is over for the time being, the weather bureau says. It'll be partly cloudy this morning, but mostly sunny afternoons today and tomorrow, with increasing wind, the forecast says.

The shower brought 2.8 in. of rain to the area, elevating the season total to 17.48 in.

Gang Fight Averted As Police Arrest 8

Possibility of a bloody gang fight between Torrance and Gardena youths was nipped in the bud late Thursday night when eight youths were arrested for having in their possession a supply of deadly weapons.

They were nabbed following a brutal attack in front of 2114 W. 182nd St.

The suspects told police that they were searching for a gang of Gardena hoodlums who had done the brutal beating on 182nd St.

Police said that one Joe Acosta was trailed from 178th St. and Western Ave. to the 182nd St. address where three carloads of young hoodlums formed him off the road. Then they attacked him and smashed his 1938 Chrysler with crowbars, bottles, stones and clubs. All of the windows were broken.

Officers Eugene Erbetta and A. W. Winkler rushed to the scene, but were unable to locate the suspects.

Forty minutes later the same policemen stopped two cars of youthful suspects at 182nd St. and Prairie Ave. and after finding a gun, several clubs and some metal rods in their auto, booked all eight on penal code violations.

The suspects related that after Acosta had been attacked, he went to his home, rounded up "his gang" and they went out to search for the Gardena youths. It was then that police nabbed them.

City Judge Otto B. Willett sentenced them to pay a \$10 fine or spend 30 days in jail, and suspended another 30-day jail stay, and placed them on

summary probation for six months.

Arrested were Joaquin Vega, Angel Acosta, Luis Acosta, Joe Rodriguez, Adolfo Grajeda, Rudy Guzman, Hector Duarte and Dave Molinar, records show.

Gardena police department was alerted to keep careful watch-out for the Gardena hoodlums.

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BIRD'S EYE VIEW . . . Where's a better place to watch a traffic accident than from the windows of a nice high school bus—especially when the bus is involved in the wreck. Little Verda Foster received minor injuries when an auto crashed into the rear of the bus at 227th St. and Hawthorne Ave. Friday afternoon. Driver of the car was not held, police say.