

# Youth, 18, Latest Ratpack Victim; Gang Mauls One; Another Escapes

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## TORRANCE HERALD

—and Torrance Herald Shoppers Reach 100,000 Buyers

### Rep. King to be Met By Capacity Crowd

A capacity crowd of 500 persons have made reservations to attend the homecoming celebration honoring Congressman Cecil R. King in the Torrance Civic Auditorium Saturday night, states Mrs. Ella Schwartz, dinner chairman.



CONGRESSMAN KING  
Coming Home

Many prominent Democratic leaders on the state and local level have indicated they will attend the fete honoring the Congressman from the 17th District.

Congressman King, a member of the important House Ways and Means Committee, will be given time to present his "Report from Washington."

Attorney General Pat Brown will speak briefly. Scheduled to introduce him is the master of ceremonies for the evening, Will Rogers Jr., for many years publisher of the Beverly Hills Citizen.

Others who have indicated they will attend are Supervisor John Anson Ford, Mrs. Elizabeth Snyder, Southern Woman's Chairman of the Democratic State Central Committee, John Gibson, president of the Los Angeles City Council, and Miss Rosalind Wagner, member of the Los Angeles City Council.

The homecoming event marks the first such affair held for a homecoming congressman on a district-wide basis. The invocation is to be given by Rev. Cecil J. England and the benediction by Rev. P. J. McGuinness.

### Oil Refinery

#### 'House is Clean' Claims Official In Smog Scrap

It appeared this week that the officials of the General Petroleum Corp., tiring of being the "whipping boy" in the anti-smog fight, rolled up their sleeves and prepared to defend themselves against attacks of being a major source of smog in Los Angeles County.

Obviously a change of pace from former statements regarding the oil industry as a factor in the smog problem, Tuesday's hard-hitting comment by A. E. Thompson, manager of General Petroleum's huge Torrance refinery was:

"Where smog is concerned, our house is clean.

"I believe the 300 General Petroleum employees who live in Torrance and their families, and the hundreds of others who live nearby, as well as all the other people in this community can be proud of this refinery," Thompson said.

"Where smog is concerned, all of us have heard a lot of talk, and a lot of accusations about oil refineries. The facts about General Petroleum's refinery here at Torrance simply don't support the contention that we are a major source of smog."

The refinery manager said that General Petroleum has been working on the control of air pollution in close conjunction with public authorities ever since the controlling bodies were set up.

"And for years before that we have been controlling gasoline evaporation losses just as a refinery should."

(Continued on Page 2)

#### October Permits Hit \$1,000,000 With Two Tracts

Permits for two new home tracts totaling 129 homes were issued here this week to shoot the young month of October over the million dollar mark in building.

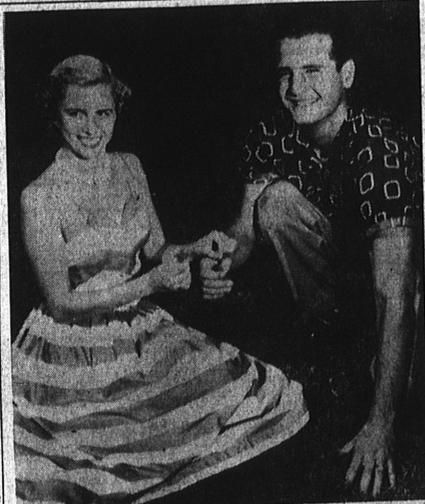
Issued Monday were permits for 102 more homes in the El Linwood Ranch development bordering Pacific Coast Hwy. These homes, the second group to be started there recently, were given a total valuation of \$971,600.

Issued Tuesday were permits for 27 new homes on W. 225th and 226th streets which will be constructed by Harbor Homes, Inc. Total valuation of these homes was placed at \$266,500.

Other permits issued during the first week of the month brought the October total to about one and one-half million dollars.

The heavy week boosted the city's 1953 total nearer the predicted mark of \$25,000,000, and kept alive the hopes of city officials that the total might hit \$30,000,000.

The city's previous record year was slightly more than \$18,000,000.



QUEEN, MAYBE . . . Julie Rhone, 17, of 1014 Beech Ave., a candidate for El Camino Grid Queen, is out digging for four leaf clovers hoping they will bring her good luck in the college contest. Lending a neighborly hand is Warren Bennett, of 24651 Hawthorne Blvd., president of the Associated Men Students. The grid queen will be crowned at a dance Oct. 17 and will rule the roosters at the Long Beach City College game on Oct. 18. There are 18 girls vying for the title. (Herald photo).

#### Over Easy Labor Leaders Management in Breakfast Meet

Union leaders and employers are going to talk it over next week—over ham and eggs.

Something varied in the way of labor-management relations will be tried when members of the Retail Clerks Local 905 and members of the Harbor Area Employers Council sit down to a breakfast meeting scheduled for 7:30 a.m. Oct. 13, at the Alan Richard Hall, 1925 W. Carson St.

Invited to the \$1.25 feed are all members of the council, according to Frank S. Selover, executive secretary. Barclay Mitchell, acting secretary-treasurer of the clerks union, has accepted an invitation to be present and to participate in the informal discussion, according to Selover.

Members as well as non-members are invited to participate.

#### Flyer Rides Plane to Own Death To Save Florida School Children

An Army jet pilot, the grandmother, Mrs. Ida Gorbet, nephew of Earl E. Gorbet, 1816 of 28814 Reed St., Lomita, with whom the heroic airman lived while attending the Lomita elementary school. Also surviving is an uncle, Frank C. Gorbet, of 2156 W. 240th St., in Lomita.

The principal of the Panama City Junior High School talking through a loud speaker told 1000 students:

"Don't go to sleep tonight without giving a prayer of gratitude that a young officer gave his life to save yours."

The dead airman is 22-year-old Edwin LeRoy Gorbet, a former student at the Orange St. School in Lomita. Eye witness accounts to the crash said that Gorbet, a second lieutenant, "very obviously" stayed with his exploding jet to guide it away from the school. As the blast set a wing section and a gas tank hurtling down into the school yard the students scampered for the safety of the building. The airman had radioed earlier that he was in trouble and was going to bail out.

Among the survivors are his

#### School Census Nearing City's 1940 Population

Torrance's school population is nearly equal to the city's 1940 population, figures compiled by Warren Hamilton, director of special services, show this week.

Hamilton's enrollment report, handed to the board of education here this week, shows the school population has risen to 9223. The 1940 census shows the city had 9950 residents.

Highest enrollment is in the Torrance High School which has 1587 students this year.

Leading off the elementary schools is North Torrance Elementary with 1287. Other elementary rollments: Torrance Elementary 1160, Fern-Greenwood 906, Walkeria 857, Seaside 831, Perry 827, Riviera 507, Madrona 492, Crenshaw 413, and El Nido 217.

Also figured in the total enrollment are 29 students in the continuation class and 10 students in home classes.

#### Unidentified Teen-Age Thugs Gang up on Boy

Another "ratpack" beating has been chalked up in the record books.

Shortly after midnight Sunday a gang of punks pulled a teenage Torrance boy from his car and with fists flying severely beat up the youth as a companion fled the scene to avoid attack.

The unprovoked gang beating took place on Torrance Blvd. near the railroad overpass at 12:40 a.m., as five or six teenage youths piled out of their car and viciously attacked James Dwyer, 18, of 5284 Bindewald Rd. His companion, Richard Savoie, also 18, of 1901 Lomita Blvd., managed to escape the attackers.

The attack was similar to three other gang fights which have occurred in Torrance within the past two weeks. In Paramount, Calif. last week a youth was killed in a similar attack. Long Beach reported five such "ratpack" beatings last week.

Dwyer was taken to the Harbor General Hospital where he was treated for cuts and bruises about the face and head. Four teeth were knocked loose. He told police he was unable to identify the gang but described the attack as being a 1941 two-door blue Chevrolet sedan.

#### Three Claim Schoolmates Mauled Them

Three high school girls were set upon by a pair of unidentified schoolmates in a couple of skirmishes Tuesday morning, Torrance police and members of the Board of Education were told Tuesday.

Mrs. John Bennett, of 2020 Andrea Ave., told police Tuesday that her daughter, Carol, and a friend, Pat Johnson, of 22508 Shadycroft Lane, were attacked and that Miss Johnson suffered severe scratches about the arms.

Police were told also that another student, Jerry Adams, had been attacked by the same group earlier in the day.

#### Elect Scotton President of Kiwanis Club

Byron Scotton, salesman for Graham Bros., Inc., was elected president of the Torrance Kiwanis Club Monday night at the American Legion Hall. He replaces outgoing president C. H. Ragsdale.

New first vice-president is Dr. G. M. Eastham; second vice-president is Joe Dowd, and elected to the Board of Directors were J. A. Barrington, M. K. McIlvaine, Charles Schutte Jr., and T. G. Wilcox.

The new leaders will take office on Jan. 1, and an installation dance will be held during the first week of 1954, according to Ragsdale.

Representing Torrance at the Kiwanis District Convention to be held in Santa Monica Oct. 18-21, will be Ragsdale, Dr. Eastham, and Scotton. Kiwanians from the California, Nevada and Hawaii districts will be represented at the convention, at which W. Donald Duttall, international Kiwanis trustee, a prominent St. Louis attorney, will be the featured speaker.



MIGHTY LUCKY . . . Sharon Hart, a Torrance Elementary School student, is real happy with the new doll given her by the Soroptimist Club after she was picked as the club's first Soroptimascope. Her mother, Mrs. Elizabeth Hart, 1617 Arlington Ave., (left) and Sharon attended a noon luncheon of the club Tuesday noon as the special guests of Mrs. Winona Ellis, club president. Sharon has a destiny in the future news of this city. (Herald photo).

#### School-City Recreation Pact Signed

A contract with the City of Torrance for a joint recreation program was approved by the Board of Education here Tuesday evening at the regular meeting of the trustees.

A total of \$4000 has been set aside in the school budget for the program, according to Superintendent of Schools J. H. Hull. Most of the school's participation is limited to making school playgrounds and facilities available for the program.

Contents of the agreement between the city and the school district are the same as in previous years, Dr. Hull said.

1. The city shall carry its own liability insurance.
2. The buildings and grounds shall be left in a clean and satisfactory condition.
3. The district shall not furnish supplies or equipment other than playground facilities.
4. There shall be no charges made for admission to any or all of the games or programs.
5. The District shall have priority for the use of school facilities as its educational requirements demand.

#### Torrance-Built Jet Sets New Speed Record

Striking across the skies this week to hit a new world's speed record was the F-4D Skyray, a Delta wing jet which is sub-assembled in the Torrance Plant of the Douglas Aircraft Co. on 100th St. and Normandie Ave.

Lt. Com. James B. Verdin, a Navy test pilot, flew the triangular planform jet at 753.4 m.p.h. to return to the United States the air speed mark taken from it by England eight days earlier.

Parts for the plane which is designed as a high altitude carrier-based interceptor are fabricated at the Torrance plant and transported to El Segundo for assembly. Douglas recently acquired a contract from the Navy for a large number of Skyrays.

The plane flown by Lt. Com. Verdin was equipped with a Westinghouse X-340-WES jet engine with an afterburner. A Douglas spokesman said this week that the production model of the Skyray to be delivered to the Navy will be equipped with a J-57 which is reported to be even more powerful than the J-40. There will be no afterburners on the Navy models.

#### A Letter from the Editor To a Pretty Young Girl With a Destiny

Dear Sharon:

You are a mighty lucky little girl. But I guess you know that already, for haven't you got a brand new doll to prove it!

But I wonder if you know just exactly why the nice ladies of the Soroptimist Club gave you that pretty doll and all those doll clothes at a luncheon on Tuesday?

Well, I'll tell you. There are many reasons, but let's say mostly it was because you have shown yourself to be so much like the good things in the Soroptimist creed. You were nominated to be the ladies' very first Soroptimascope because you have demonstrated thoughtfulness, truthfulness, kindness, and a love of country. These things, Sharon, are all found in the Soroptimist creed. Do you know what a creed is? It's a confession of faith. And these nice ladies of the Soroptimist Club have faith in you, Sharon. You must never let them down. You must keep smiling even though you may not feel like smiling and if at times things don't seem to go just the way you might want them, you just show those nice ladies that you really deserved to be their first Soroptimascope.

Your name, along with a lot of other girls' names, was put into a hat and you were picked to be the lucky one. I've seen your pretty walking doll and I guess it's just about as pretty a doll as I've ever seen. And all those doll clothes that the ladies gave you, I guess that makes your doll the best dressed doll in America.

Mrs. Winona Ellis, she's the head lady of the club said you also got a vanity for your very own. There are a lot of people who will say you are a mighty lucky 10-year-old. And they are pretty close to being right.

Be a good girl and be sure to do what your mother tells you.

Your friend,  
THE EDITOR

#### TORRID HEAT WAVE ENDS

The short October summer has come and gone.

A definite break in the 100-degree heat wave which swept the city over the weekend came Tuesday when the temperature struggled feebly to a mere 89 degrees. Yesterday, it could manage only a snappy 76.

The three days of the week end, however saw the thermometer rise to 101 degrees on Saturday, 102 on Sunday, and 103 on Monday.

Official weather bureau forecasts for this area call for morning fog and hazy sunshine here today. Little change in temperature was predicted.



BRINGS HOME THE BACON . . . Flying a jet-powered Skyray, parts of which are built at the Torrance plant of the Douglas Aircraft Co. here, a Navy pilot, Lt. Com. James B. Verdin, recaptured the world's speed record for the U. S. taking it away from the British, who held it for eight days prior to Verdin's record flight last Friday.

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EDWIN GORBET Dies to Save Kids

ROTHS LOWER PRICES