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Camper Tells of Brush with Death



HE HAD A PIPE DREAM . . . Mike Elliott holds his head after his harrowing ride through a spillway pipe at Prado Dam Sunday. Unconscious throughout the ride, he suffered only cuts and bruises and noted that a couple of aspirins cured his headache.

Boy Gets Ride on Spillway

Only slightly the worse for wear, Mike Elliott returned home Monday after getting the thrill of his life on a half-mile toboggan ride through a water-filled spillway pipe at Prado Dam, near Corona, Sunday.

The 15-year-old Torrance High junior received only bruises on his head and hands as the result of his unscheduled slide during a swim at the dam. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. William J. Elliott, of 1816 Calamar Ave.

"I guess I was pretty lucky," he admitted.

Mike left Saturday on a three-day camping trip near Lake Matthews with three other Torrance boys—Jerry Garver, 15, of 1115 Eitel Ave.; his brother, Dickie Cloward, 12; and Tom Arzolan, of 16818 Casimir Ave.

Boys Go Swimming
The boys decided to go swimming around the dam Sunday, and Elliott and Garver were swimming in the water near the spillway, but they didn't realize the danger there.

Garver climbed on a ladder at the dam, declaring the current was too strong and urged Elliott to come with him. As Elliott swam toward Garver, he found the current even stronger and was swept into the 36-inch spillway pipe.

Half in and half out of the pipe, Elliott struggled to get out, while Garver yelled for help and sought to hold him—first by his arms, then by the hair, and finally, by the teeth. A bystander also joined in the scramble.

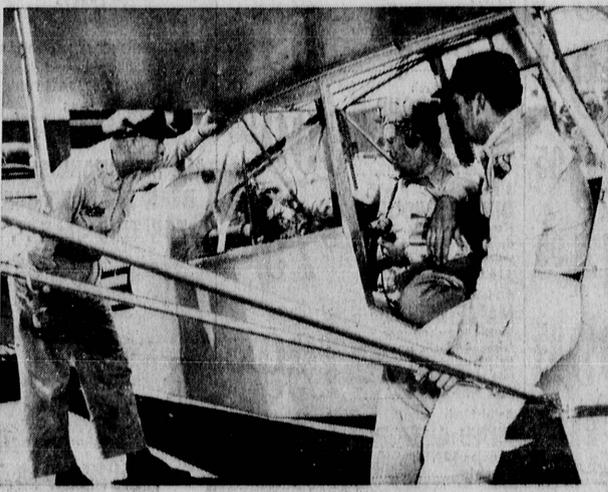
Tried to Pull Back
"The last thing I remember is they were trying to pull me back. I knew I was going to be pulled in. I was plenty scared," Elliott said.

When Elliott was swept into the pipe, Garver yelled to the people at the bottom. As Elliott was flushed out of the pipe a few minutes later, Charles Frizzell, of Downey, a part-time life guard, swam out and pulled him to shore. An

Plaintiffs Named
Mrs. Elizabeth Snyder, chairman of the Democratic State Committee; Don Rose, head of the Los Angeles County Democratic Central Committee, and 14 Democratic clubs were named as plaintiffs.

Chapel told the HERALD yesterday that he knew only what he had read in the newspapers about the case. "No one has served any papers on me yet," he stated.

Too Popular
"They don't like the fact that I've been elected by overwhelming majorities twice—and am the only Republican candidate elected to a partisan office from this district for 30 years," Chapel said.



BEFORE THE CRASH . . . Looking over some of the radio equipment in a CAP plane shortly before the crash Saturday is Maj. Davis C. Cochran, (left) pilot of the plane which crashed in Rolling Hills. With him are Maj. A. C. Freeman, group communications officer, and W/O Rex Hume, squadron 43, communications officer.

Girl Flown to Texas for Treatment after Smashup

A 35-year-old woman remained in "very critical" condition and a 37-year-old pilot was in "serious" condition at latest reports, following the crash of a single-engine Cessna monoplane on a Civil Air Patrol Mission Saturday night.

Lt. Myrtle (Jan) Kirby, of 5420 Linda Dr., was taken by air ambulance to Brooke Army Medical Center, San Antonio, Tex., for treatment of second and third degree burns which covered 80 per cent of her body.

Maj. Davis Cochran, of 268 Calle de Andalucia, was taken to March Air Force Base, Riverside, for treatment of second degree burns on his legs, and numerous cuts and bruises.

Special Treatment
Medical "burn team" specialists from the Texas base were treating Mrs. Kirby, who was flown there by an iron lung-type tank in an air ambulance late Sunday. Harbor hospital officials indicated that they had done as much for her as possible, but Air Force specialists have developed a new method, often used on jet pilots, which is sometimes effective when other methods fail.

Her husband, John, CAP group air inspector, accompanied his wife to San Antonio, and remained at her bedside. Their two children remained at home with their grandmother, Mrs. Grace Goings.

Was Observer
She was an observer in the plane, piloted by Cochran, who was flying over the Harbor hospital to March Air Force Base. A sundries salesman, he is married and the father of one son.

On CAP Mission
The plane was on an official Air Force approved mission for CAP Squadron 43 at the Torrance Municipal Airport. CAP Sgt. William Blaine, 19, of 26067 Lucille Ave., Lomita, said that the plane had just dropped a message to his ground crew, then



CRASH VICTIM . . . Shown here at a conference of CAP members is Lt. Myrtle Kirby, (arrow) who was badly burned in Saturday's crash in Rolling Hills. In the foreground is Lt. Col. Frank Schwick, commander of the 42nd Air Rescue Squadron at March Field.

altitude before disappearing from view.

Other witnesses said the right wing of the plane struck a 35-foot flagpole in front of the fire station and crashed into the yard. The CAP is investigating the crash.

Maj. Cochran is the commanding officer of CAP group 7, with headquarters at Long Beach, while Mrs. Kirby is a lieutenant attached to the communications section of the group. Both had been members of the CAP for about two years. She was a student pilot.

Biggest Building Program Yet Planned by Educators

The Board of Education authorized architects to begin plans for three new schools and took action to obtain three new school sites Tuesday, as it waded into the biggest building program ever under way at one time in Torrance.

With passage of the recent \$10,000,000 bond issue, educators began making plans for nine new schools—South High School and Anza, Arlington, Edison, Meadow Park, Parkway, Sepulveda, West Torrance Elementary Schools, and another elementary school for which it is now seeking a site.

Architects Hired
Architects for three schools were hired and authorized to begin at once. Roy Donley will design South High School, while Tom Russell will work on Meadow Park plans, and Wilbur C. Harrison and Quinton Engineers, Ltd., will start on Parkway School.

The other two schools will be new.

Plans for West Torrance and Anza Schools will be presented at the next meeting, Assistant Superintendent Sherman E. Waldrip said.

Site Sought
In other action, the board planned to seek a school site for Parkway School, between Palos Verdes Blvd. and the ocean, for \$46,725 was authorized by the board. The Don Ja-Ran Corp. now owns the property.

Tax Cut Offsets Bond Payments

A cut of 5 cents in the city's general property tax rates for the coming year was ordered by the City Council here Tuesday night.

Based on the recommendation of City Manager George Stevens, who is charged with the responsibility of preparing the city's budget each year, the Council voted to slice the tax rate from the present \$1 level to 95 cents for each \$100 of assessed valuation.

The cut in general property taxes and cut in the tax for retirement benefits and for payment of 1954 bond retirement more than offset the new tax needed to start payment on the civic center and swimming pool bonds.

Rates Compared
As proposed by City Manager Stevens and approved by the Council, the 1955-56 tax rate for the City of Torrance will be:

1955-56	1954-55
General Fund \$0.95	\$1.00
Retirement 0.10	0.195
Library 0.05	0.05
1954 Bonds 0.027	0.035
1955 Bonds 0.057	
Total tax rate \$1.184	\$1.19

Net tax saving to Torrance residents thus is six-tenths of a cent for each \$100 valuation, and the city has just taken on bonds for park development, new fire stations, a new city hall, new police station, and a new swimming pool.

Values Raised
Cutting the general fund tax rate by 5 cents was made possible through the rise in assessed valuation of the city's taxable property to nearly 100 million dollars.

Final estimate of the city's taxable wealth reported this week by County Assessor John R. Quinn's office totals \$99,727,570, according to City Clerk A. H. Bartlett.

Formal adoption of the new

tax rate is scheduled in an ordinance to be presented to the Council next Tuesday evening.

Even after cutting the taxes, the city will have sufficient surplus funds to purchase four new buses which are needed badly by the bus department, a new track loader truck, and will permit final payment on the new aerial fire truck which is due for delivery soon, according to Stevens.

This will still leave an adequate reserve fund for "cushioning," the city manager reported.

Girl Injured In Car Crash

A 15-year-old Wilmington girl received contusions in a two-car traffic accident Monday night at Torrance Blvd. and Hawthorne Ave.

Priscilla Garcia, 15, of 849 Realty St., Wilmington, was injured when cars driven by Daniel Savodra, 17, of 417 McDonnell Ave., Wilmington, and Hugh D. Watts, 19, of 317 1st St., Manhattan, collided at the intersection. She was taken by Wrights Ambulance to Harbor General Hospital, where she was released after treatment.

The Wilmington girl was a passenger in Savodra's vehicle, 570, according to police reports of the mishap.

\$\$\$ Woes Cause College Closing

The Palos Verdes College Board of Trustees has written the obituary of the eight-year-old liberal arts school Monday—in red ink.

Financial difficulties and a small enrollment caused the trustees to decide to close the college before the fall semester, President John A. Howard announced Monday. During the past year, the school had 50 full-time and 55 part-time students and 12 full-time and five part-time instructors.

"It is difficult to declare an end to an institution to which so many people have devoted their efforts and resources," Dr. Howard said. "We are most sorry to terminate a distinctive and widely-known educational program and to release the able and devoted faculty and staff."

Support Insufficient
"However, each year we have had to raise \$50,000 in gifts to meet the operating budget and these gifts have been increasingly hard to find. After extensive efforts failed to find new sources of support for our program, the decision to close was mandatory."

Friends said Howard had served as president without pay for the past three years and had invested some \$80,000 of his own money into the school. Howard, who had been with the school since its founding in 1946, became its president in 1951, when Dr. Richard P. Saunders, its fourth, left.

Old Radar Camp
Sited on a 55-acre site in Rolling Hills, the school build-

ings were barracks used during World War II as a radar camp. Under terms of the land grant, the property will revert to the Palos Verdes Corp., now owned by the Great Lakes Carbon Corp.

Ivar O. Hanson, of the Palos Verdes company and a member of the college board of trustees, said the company had offered to pay the college's debts, totaling some \$50,000.

Inquiries Made
Hanson indicated that the company has received inquiries from several groups interested in founding a school or college, but no agreements have been made. He suggested that the buildings might be used temporarily as public school buildings.

The college office will remain open for another six weeks, Howard said, to help students now enrolled with plans for attending other colleges. He offered his thanks to all who had helped with the college during its eight-year history.

Members of the College board of trustees include Howard, Hanson, Dr. J. L. Bloch, Dr. A. W. Warkent, W. S. Beach, Bob Finch, Oliver Fitch, Kelvin Vandierp, Frank Adams, Frank Weir, Fred Roessler, Arch Ekdale, and Ray W. Smith.

Democrats Sue Assemblyman

Assemblyman Charles E. Chapel has been named defendant in a suit filed in Superior Court by the Democratic State Central Committee, charging he fraudulently claimed Democratic support in the last election.

The suit, asking \$5000 compensatory damages and \$50,000 punitive damages, alleges that Chapel and his supporters claimed the support of non-existent "Democratic clubs" in advertisements printed before last November's election.

Furthermore, Chapel had never been endorsed by the Democrats as the advertisements stated, the suit claimed.

The suit, filed in Inglewood branch of the Superior Court, by Attorney Milo Shadel, named Chapel, former Inglewood Councilman Don Paisley, Inglewood merchant Robert E. Ketchum, and 35 John Does as defendants.

Plaintiffs Named
Mrs. Elizabeth Snyder, chairman of the Democratic State Committee; Don Rose, head of the Los Angeles County Democratic Central Committee, and 14 Democratic clubs were named as plaintiffs.

Chapel told the HERALD yesterday that he knew only what he had read in the newspapers about the case. "No one has served any papers on me yet," he stated.

The Assemblyman labeled the move as an effort to scare Democratic voters into supporting the candidates put up by the party instead of voting independently.

Merchant Blows Whistle on Hot Check Passer

A 21-year-old Hermosa woman, Carol Ann McGlynn, went on a bad check cashing spree here late Tuesday afternoon, but Torrance police, merchants and Chamber of Commerce officials collaborated to land the passer in jail quickly.

The woman cashed two bad checks, the first at 3 p.m. She was apprehended at 6:40 p.m. by detectives.

Authorities say a second suspect has been identified and should be apprehended soon.

Masquerading as Mrs. John Moreno, the slender woman, cashed a pair of bad checks, at \$72.70 each, and had two more in possession when captured. All four checks were forged payroll checks. They were made out to John Moreno, by the Frantz Ventilian Blind Co., through the Security First National Bank of Los Angeles.

Arrests Suspicion
The woman first aroused suspicion at Fischer Hardware, 705 Torrance Blvd., where she cashed her first check. After cashing the order, the suspect asked proprietor Fred Fischer some information about paint brands and while he was checking

City Requests 18-Month Delay On Burning Ban

The Torrance City Council Tuesday evening took several hot issues in hand without batting an eye. During the course of their two-hour meeting the Councilmen:

1. Joined other cities in asking an 18-month delay on incinerator ban proposed by County Supervisors.

2. Adopted a new oil field regulation ordinance at its first reading.

3. Accepted the proposed new land use ordinance and sent it on to the Planning Commission to begin required formal hearings on the matter, and

4. Approved tract maps for about 900 new homes in the city.

Only on the tract maps did any discussion of note take place.

Councilman Victor E. Bonstead Jr., who has been at the forefront of developers lately on the matter of trees, asked Milton Kaufman if he would dig up and ball the approximately 25 palm trees which must be

removed. (Continued on Page 30)