

LARGE AREAS OF CITY FLOODED IN BIG STORM HERE YESTERDAY

The Only Paper Blanketing All Sections of Torrance plus Lomita, Harbor City and Adjacent City and County Areas

Torrance Herald

Phone
FA 8-4000

Published Monday and Thursday—
Entered as second class matter Jan. 30, 1914, at postoffice, Torrance, California, under Act of March 3, 1879.

OFFICE AND PLANT AT 1619 GRAMERCY AVE., TORRANCE

42nd Year—No. 8

TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, JANUARY 26, 1956

CIRCULATION OFFICE FA 8-4004

10¢ per copy

32 PAGES

Ex-Local Man Dies In Plane

Funeral services were held here yesterday afternoon for Virgil Alfred Gibson, 31, son of Mr. and Mrs. George Gibson, 1506 W. 215th St., who was killed Saturday night when his war surplus BT 13 plane crashed on a Burbank street.

A native of Torrance, Gibson was living in Ridgecrest with his wife, Dorothy, and son, Kim Elliott, 4, at the time of his death.

Authorities say Gibson's plane just missed power lines and two motorists before it crashed in front of a house at 2000 Richard St., in Burbank. Officials said the plane apparently went into a stall before it crashed.

Two motorists told authorities they were driving down the street when the plane suddenly headed for their car. They backed up the car and got out, but the plane missed the auto. Final rites were held at Stone and Myers Chapel, with the Rev. Nathan Bond, of the Baptist Church, officiating. Burial followed services at Green Hills Cemetery.

In addition to his wife and son, 22, Gibson leaves his parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Gibson, of 1506 W. 215th St.; five brothers, Thomas, Ray, and Leaman, all of Torrance; Paul, of Castian, Osla.; and George, Jr., of the Air Force; and three sisters, Chloe Malone, Carmen Stone, and Joyce Gardner, all of Torrance.

A veteran of World War II, the deceased was a member of the Torrance Elks Lodge.

Baker Completes Navy Music Basic Course

Among the Navy personnel who completed the basic course at the Naval School of Music, Washington, D. C., recently was Donald E. Baker, musician son of Mr. and Mrs. William O. Baker, 1222 Crenshaw Blvd.

Drale Opens Bid For Re-Election

Councilman Nick Drale kicked off the 1956 municipal political campaign last night by announcing that he would seek re-election to his third four-year term as a member of the Council. Filings open today for the three posts which will be filled at the April 10 election.

Other incumbents whose terms will be up are Mervin M. Schwab and Victor E. Bestead Jr. They have not formally declared their intentions on seeking re-election.

Drale, who served one term as mayor of Torrance, has been a member of the Council since 1948—one of the longest records



COUNCILMAN DRALE



SLIPPERY WHEN WET . . . And that's just the way these drivers seem to be reading this intersection at 174th St. and Glenburn Ave. as they taxi their autos slowly through the water. Storm installations at this intersection became blocked up and sent water way over dividing island on

174th St. Heavy rains yesterday played havoc in the North Torrance area. Reports of water seeping into homes, autos being stalled and submerged by the rain, and streets being transformed into veritable lakes "flooded" the police and street departments yesterday. But it's great for the farmers.

Citizen Award Nominations For '55 Sought

Nominations for the annual Citizen of the Year Award, and the coveted William Laughon-Grover Whyte trophy, are invited by the selection committee headed by Mervin W. Schwab.

The trophy, currently held by Paul D. Loranger, will be presented at the annual banquet of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce to be held Tuesday evening, Feb. 28.

Those wishing to make nominations are advised to send letters to the Chamber of Commerce headquarters at once. They should be directed to the attention of the "Citizen Award Committee," according to Manager Tom Watson.



MAN THE PUMPS . . . City pumping truck, left center, works for all its worth to relieve heavy flooding on Paseo de Gracia in Hollywood Riviera section. Truck was pumping excess water out of the area, across Pacific Coast Highway

and down to the ocean. Picture was snapped yesterday about noon when water was threatening to overrun lawns and come up to homes. City retaining lot, fenced in at right, which is about eight feet deep, was near overflowing.

No Loot Taken

Sheriff's deputies said yesterday that a Lomita realty company, at 2213 Lomita Blvd., had been entered over the weekend, but nothing was taken. Deputies reported that a rear window was broken to gain entrance.

News Index

County Health Officer Roy O. Gilbert today looks into the impact which the introduction of the Salk vaccine has had on the polio picture during the past year and projects his findings into the new year. For details, see page 18.	18
Other features today may be found as follows:	
Editorial	18
Home and Garden	25
Jo Jensen	13
Viola Klug	2
Social	9-12
Sports	14-15
Sue Burk	6
Mary Webb	6
Want Ads	26-31

Couple Dies in Traffic Mishap

A man and wife were killed at about 6:30 a.m. here Monday when their car crashed into a metal barricade surrounding signals on Western Ave., near the entrance to Douglas Aircraft Co.

Dead are John Wesley Robinett, 64, and his wife, Ar Myrtice Robinett, 59, both of 1613 W. 209th St. Their car hit the barricade in a light rain, police said. There were no witnesses to the tragedy.

Mrs. Robinett was driving their 1951 model car at the time of the fatal accident. They were going north on Western Ave. at the time of the crash. Authorities say Mrs. Robinett was apparently taking her husband to work at an aircraft plant in Hawthorne.

Both victims were pronounced dead on arrival at Harbor General Hospital.

Home Delivery Rate of Herald Changes Feb. 1

The price of THE HERALD for home delivery of both editions of the paper will be 45 cents per month effective Feb. 1. The new rates will not apply to subscriptions already in effect.

The new rate is necessitated by increased costs generally experienced in the newspaper business and specifically with THE HERALD which, during the last year, has considerably expanded local news coverage.

The advantages of twice-weekly delivery—on Monday and Thursday mornings—is emphasized and all residents of the Torrance area are invited to become subscribers on a home delivery basis.

Carrier boys currently are collecting for January at the former rate.

Streets Closed As Water Rises

Large sections of Torrance went under water yesterday as rain, which measured 1.73 inches by 3:30 p.m., opened its 1956 season in the Southland.

Areas of the city where the water was stacking up faster than it could be carried away included:

- 166th St. and Arlington.
- 168th St. and Crenshaw.
- 174th St. and Glenburn.
- 171st St. and Glenburn.
- 164th St. and Wilkie Ave.
- 170th St. east of Casimir Ave.
- Via El Chico in southwest Torrance.
- Paseo de Gracia in southwest Torrance.
- Yukon Ave. and 171st St.
- Redondo Beach Blvd., east of Crenshaw.
- Redondo Beach Blvd., between Prairie and Hawthorne.

Late last evening police and an auto wrecker were called to 1709 Glenburn Ave., where a police victim was trapped in an auto which had slid into a ditch formed by storm drain installations in the area. The victim of the flooded area was unharmed, police said at the time, but further details were missing.

Channel Blocked
Street Superintendent Ralph Perkins, following a tour of north Torrance late yesterday said the water was being impeded in the Dominguez flood control channel just east of Crenshaw Blvd. and was threatening to close off that heavily traveled thoroughfare. A crew was sent to the channel about 4 p.m. in an attempt to open up the water way to allow faster passage of the storm waters—much of it coming in from as far north as Inglewood.

The water was crossing the sidewalks east of Crenshaw in the 166th and Arlington areas. Many residents had been alerted to be ready to evacuate their homes during the night if the rains continued.

Home Threatened
A southwest Torrance home was threatened for a while yesterday when water rushing down the hill above Via El Chico threatened to wash over the embankment, carrying tons of sand and silt with it. A heavy bulldozer was rushed to the spot by the Street Department and a dike formed above the home to divert the waters.

The low spot on Paseo de Gracia, which is usually one of the first areas of the city to be flooded in any rains, was the first to rate attention.

Two city crews were pumping water throughout the day from the area and were keeping it under control, Perkins said. A large retaining basin in the area was full by noon and the water was threatening to break over into the adjacent yards, many of them which are lower than the street.

The storm drain project which has been under construction through Glenburn Avenue north of 174th St. washed out in front of 17302 Glenburn and contractor's crews were rushed to the scene in an effort to repair some of the damage. Water was running north on Glenburn from curb to curb.

Perkins said late yesterday that he probably would have to close off Crenshaw north of 171st St., and 170th St. east of Casimir. Other areas of the city, although still passable, were taking their toll in stalled autos—one police car was stalled about 5 p.m. and had to put out a call for the tow truck. Weather reports last night called for continued rain today.

Industrialist's Daughter Hurt In Train Crash

Mary Lou Spalding, 3217 W. 76th St., Los Angeles, the 19-year-old daughter of John D. Spalding, works manager for the National Supply Co., has been confined to St. Francis Hospital, Lynwood, with injuries received in the tragic train wreck in Los Angeles Sunday night which claimed 29 lives.

Miss Spalding, a student at a San Diego College, was returning to San Diego aboard the ill-fated train after spending the week end with her parents in Los Angeles.

Her injuries have been described as critical, though slightly improved, and may include a skull fracture in addition to multiple facial and body lacerations.

Woman Dies At Wheel of Automobile

A 57-year-old Lomita woman apparently succumbed to a heart ailment at the wheel of her car Tuesday afternoon as she was driving on 262nd St. near Western Ave., sheriff's deputies reported.

Dead is Mrs. Mary Helen Croskrey, of 26216 Ocean View, Lomita. She was pronounced dead on arrival at Hillside Emergency Hospital.

Authorities say the woman was stopped at a stop sign at 262nd and Western. Her car then proceeded across the intersection, jumped a curb and came to rest in a vacant lot.

Robert Gazley, 25, of 1709 W. 262nd, who was driving a car behind the stricken woman's vehicle, notified officials.

The victim's body was taken to a Wilmington mortuary where funeral services are pending.

OPPOSES KUCHEL

Republican Raymond R. Fritchard, assemblyman-elect of Pomona, has announced that he will oppose Sen. Thomas Kuchel (R-Calif.) at the June primaries.

Attack Suspect Returned Here

A tip from Ontario police to the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Office netted the arrest this week of Paul T. Jones, 19, of 1410 W. 218th St., who has been wanted here since Dec. 12 on forcible rape charges.

Jones was working as a laborer in Ontario, according to local juvenile officers, who picked him up Monday and returned him to Torrance. Sgt. D. C. Cook and Officer Leo Gonzales brought Jones back.

He is accused of participating in the attack of two Gardena girls in a house at 236th St. on Dec. 12. Two other teenagers were involved in the attack, Dickie D. Fields, 19, of 1620 W. 219th St., and a 16-year-old Torrance boy.

Gets Two Months
Fields received a two month sentence recently on the counts while the juvenile was turned over to authorities at Juvenile Hall.

Jones, Fields, and the other boy all bolted arrest as they came out of a house on 256th St. They fled officers, who had been called out by a woman who had heard the screams of the victims, who were ages 13 and 15. Fields and the 16-year-old were apprehended, but Jones escaped.

Meanwhile, Jones is being held in the city jail here. Cook said San Bernardino county authorities reported that Jones was working as a hod carrier in Ontario. He had dyed his customary blond hair black, Cook said, and denied ever knowing anything about Torrance or knowing Cook, who has had contact with the suspect before, police said. Fields pleaded guilty recently to a reduced count of statutory rape and was given the 60-day sentence.