

PLANT EXPLOSION KILLS WORKER, SERIOUSLY INJURES TWO OTHERS

The Only Newspaper Blanketing All Sections of Torrance, Plus Lomita, Harbor City and Adjacent City and County Areas

Torrance Herald



OFFICE AND PLANT AT 1619 GRAMERCY AVE., TORRANCE

News & Adv. FA 8-4000

43rd Year—No. 31

12

TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, APRIL 18, 1957

10¢ Per Copy

36 PAGES

Mountain Plane Crash Hurts Two

Hold-Up Suspect In Court Today

Harbor Division police expressed skepticism over the story of a former convict who claims that he was forced to participate in a March 29 service station robbery which was followed by a traffic accident, the beating of a woman, and the theft of her car.

Don W. Lasell Named Manager Of Steel Firm

Don W. Lasell, 49, formerly assistant general superintendent of the Fairfield Tin Mill of U. S. Steel's Tennessee Coal & Iron Division, has been appointed general superintendent of the Torrance Works of U. S. Steel's Columbia-Geneva Steel Division, it was announced today by D. E. Rice, Columbia-Geneva general manager of operations.

Lasell succeeds C. C. Morgan, recently named general superintendent of the Pittsburgh Works of Columbia-Geneva.

A native of Lodi, Calif., he received his elementary and high school education there. He holds an A. B. degree in mechanical engineering from Stanford, 1931.

Lasell joined U. S. Steel at Pittsburgh Works in 1933. He was named industrial engineer in 1935, later becoming assistant superintendent of the sheet mill. From July, 1945, to January, 1946, he was superintendent of the sheet mill at Torrance Works. He returned to Pittsburgh Works as superintendent of the sheet mill. From 1949 to 1955 he was superintendent of the cold reduction department at Pittsburgh. On July 31, 1955, he was transferred to the Fairfield Tin Mill as assistant general superintendent.

Lasell is married and has three children.

Electric Motor Taken

Someone broke into a tool shed at the California Trends, Inc., 25109 Ebony Lane, Lomita, taking a \$10 electric motor, Ruth Campbell told sheriff's deputies Tuesday. The thieves pried off the lock.

Ralph R. Price, 27, Gardena, will receive a preliminary hearing in San Pedro Municipal Court, Division 31, today on charges in connection with his alleged part in the crimes.

Turns Self In
Price turned himself in to the police Saturday, claiming that he was forced to take part in the robbery of a service station at 22540 Western Ave., where two men demanded that attendant Bill Grondahl, 20, hand over the payroll money. When he resisted, they hit him on the head with a gun and fled with his wallet.

They hopped into a car, which police said belonged to Price, but were involved in a crash at Carson and Harvard, in which Mrs. Olga Sinatra, 43, Buena Park, was critically injured. They fled on foot and stole the car of Mrs. Mazola Lewis, 1308 W. 218th St., after beating her.

Gave A Ride
Price claims that he gave the two robbers a ride, thinking they were out of gas. They pulled a gun on him and forced him to accompany them, he said, releasing him after taking Mrs. Lewis' car.

After hiding in a nearby garage, Price told police he went to Salt Lake City, where his father advised him to return and give himself up.

Price has a previous record of similar offenses, police said.

Worker Injured When Building Beam Falls
Possible serious injuries were suffered here Tuesday by Edward Poore, 36, of 3522 W. 229th Pl., when he was struck on the head by a falling wooden beam while working on a construction project at 16907 Yukon Ave.

He was taken to a private physician for treatment, according to Torrance police.



WHERE'S LUCKY? . . . That's what the children of Mrs. Mabel Wells, 2716 W. 185th St., would like to know. The dogcatcher picked up their dog and, through a mix-up, was sold before he could be redeemed. Now the new owner

can't be located and the Wells' children, Frankie, 10; Ruby, 7; Chuckie, 2½, and Billy, 5, are lonesome for their dog. Frankie became ill and doctors could diagnose it as nothing more than pining for his missing pet.

CITY OKAYS SEWERS FOR RIVIERANS

A sewer district for some 700 homes in the lower Hollywood Riviera area received the approval of the Torrance City Council Tuesday night.

Only one protest was lodged at the public hearing for the area bounded roughly by Pacific Coast Hwy., Via Los Altos, Calle Mayor, and Camino de las Colinas and Via Monte D'Oro.

The Council made plans to receive bids for the work on May 14, and hopes for completion by the end of the year.

Petitions now are being circulated for formation of a similar sewer district in the middle Riviera section.

Humane Officer Seeks Puppy in Wrong Dog Raid

Where's Lucky?
That was the \$64,000 question this week and Mrs. Mabel Wells, 2716 W. 185th St., and her five unhappy children, wish they knew the answer. So does Francis Fallon, manager of the South Bay Humane Society.

Lucky is a seven-month-old German shepherd puppy who was so named because he has a white horseshoe on the chest of his silky coat. He was picked up a month ago by the South Bay Humane Society after receiving complaints from neighbors that a German shepherd was disturbing the neighborhood.

Wrong Dog Taken
Mrs. Wells says the offending dog wasn't hers, but a brother of her dog which was owned by a neighbor. Anyhow, the pound sold Lucky and the new owner can't be located.

As a result, Mrs. Wells' oldest son, Frankie, 10, became ill and has been ailing for a month, missing two weeks of school and losing eight pounds. Specialists at Children's Hospital couldn't find anything physically wrong and could attribute it to nothing more than a bad case of pining for his dog.

Frankie had been training Lucky as part of the merit badge program of the Cub Scouts. The other Wells children also miss their playmate.

Woo! Woo!
"I used to bark at him and he would bark back," five-year-old Billy recalled wistfully.

The mix-up all started a month ago after the Humane Society received complaints from the area about a German

Torrance Craft Hits Mountain

Critical injuries were received Tuesday noon by a Torrance man and woman when their single-engine plane crashed near the Montgomery Pass between Bishop and Carson City, Nev.

Injured were Donald L. Baird, 27, of 5205 Emerald, owner of the two-place Aerona, and Martha Hail, 33, of 5013 Sharynne Lane. Both were taken to Northern Inyo Hospital at Bishop where they were described as suffering from shock, concussion, back injuries, and multiple cuts and bruises.

Trucker Sounds Alarm
The plane crashed into Mt. Montgomery about one half mile below the peak which is 50 miles north of Bishop. The crash was discovered by a truck driver who had stopped along the highway for repairs. A volunteer crew of Bishop firemen and ambulance drivers rescued the pair.

Bishop sources said the two had made one attempt to fly into Carson City. Failing to get over the mountains, the two returned to Bishop and retreated before attempting to go through Montgomery Pass.

Plane Based Here
Baird's plane was based at Torrance Municipal Airport, and had just completed an extensive rebuilding and re-

'Ranchero Days' Celebration Set Here July 24-28

Plans for what is hoped will become an annual city-wide celebration were made Monday evening at a meeting attended by representatives of many of the city's service and social organizations Monday night.

The celebration, it was decided, will be known as "Ranchero Days" and will be held from July 24 to 28. Chamber of Commerce Manager Dick Fitzgerald will coordinate the events.

Those attending hoped to make the celebration an annual event, combining many of the separate events which have been sponsored by various organizations at different times throughout the year. This way, it is hoped, the separate events can be combined into a really city-wide event, helping to increase civic consciousness.

The annual Torrance Area Youth Band search for "Miss Torrance," will be a leading feature of the celebration, as will the annual Lions Club Rodeo.

"Ranchero Days" activities will center at the newly-opened Torrance Civic Center, which opened last August. Mayor Albert Isen promised that tours of municipal facilities would be a feature of the celebration.



LEADERS HONOURED . . . Local community leaders congratulate Jay Albert Robinson, incoming chairman of the Harbor Area Welfare Federation Board at installation ceremonies. Don Davidson, president of the Gardena Chamber of Commerce; Don Mansfield, assistant city manager of Torrance; Robinson; Mayor Thomas Ware of Gardena; and Mrs. Donald Armstrong of Palos Verdes, a member of the board.

Post Office Awaits Word On Service

Although Congress Tuesday passed a bill allocating additional funds for the Post Office, Torrance Postmaster Clara E. Conner said late yesterday she had received no instructions to resume the normal schedule.

Mail cutbacks were put into effect last Saturday after Postmaster General Arthur Summerfield had failed to get a \$47,000,000 appropriation for operating the Post Office until July 1. Congress Tuesday voted \$41,000,000 of the total requested, and President Eisenhower signed the bill.

Summerfield announced that mail deliveries would return to normal, except that business deliveries would be confined to two per day, instead of three or four, as in the past. The Post Office will be kept on a 8½-hour day, he indicated.

Post Offices will reopen on Saturday, Summerfield indicated, and plans for suspending third class mail service and mail of money orders were cancelled.

Mrs. Conner indicated that she would act to restore the postal service as soon as she receives instructions from Washington.

Torrance Youth Held

A Torrance youth was one of 13 persons arrested on suspicion of possession or sale of narcotics. Capt. Kenneth Irving, head of the sheriff's narcotics detail said.

Donald H. McLeod, 19, 4727 Green Meadows Ave., was one of a group which will be brought before the grand jury for possible indictment, Irving said.

Two Seriously Hurt in Blast

One man was killed instantly and two others burned seriously here Tuesday afternoon when a titanium melting furnace exploded at the Harvey Machine Co. plant at 190th and Western Ave.

Decapitated in the explosion was Robert F. Wade, 21, of 4535 W. 163rd St., Lawndale. Burned were Raymond L. Martin, 24, of Garden Grove, and Vernon Adams, 4045 W. 163rd St.

Martin's condition was listed as critical yesterday afternoon by Torrance Memorial Hospital attendants. Adams was listed as fair.

The explosion rocked a large area of the huge aluminum plant. It occurred when a titanium melting furnace in a restricted area of the plant exploded. Cause of the explosion was not known yesterday, plant officials told THE HERALD.

Funeral services for Wade will be held Friday afternoon

Board Approves \$614,956 Addition to North High

A contract for a \$614,956 addition to facilities at North High School which will raise the capacity of the school to about 2000 was awarded Tuesday night by the Torrance School Board.

The additions will include 10 classrooms, three science laboratories, a special classroom, custodial room, and a music building. The contract set a completion date of Nov. 29 for the project. Low bidder was Integrated Constructors and Engineers, Inc.

1700 Enrolled
North High now has an enrollment of nearly 1700 children, with an expected enrollment of some 1850 next fall.

What Do You Think?

What do you think? That was the question that THE HERALD asked its readers last week with regard to the question of whether seventh and eighth graders should receive grades in order to prepare them for high school.

A deluge of letters has come into the offices since then, and THE HERALD has printed some of the more representative letters, including some on Page 3 of today's paper.

The question is still open and THE HERALD welcomes additional expressions from readers on this question, which is of vital concern in children's education.

What do you think?

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