

City Workers to Ask for 24 Hours 'Moonlight' Time

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Torrance Herald

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POLICE CLAIM PILOT DENIES PLAN TO CRASH PLANE INTO HIS HOME

Woman Hurt By Aircraft

Hints that the pilot of a light plane which slammed through the back yards of several Kettler Knolls homes Friday afternoon may have been aiming the craft at the home of his estranged wife a short distance away were stoutly denied to police after the crash, the HERALD was told yesterday.

The 41-year-old pilot, A. L. Devenish of Hawthorne, told police from his hospital bed that he crashed after something hit the windshield of his Cessna, showering glass fragments into his face.

THE PILOT did admit, police said, that he had left his wife's home at 2098 Middlebrook Road about two hours before the 2 p.m. crash after an argument over a property settlement. His wife, Josephine, was among the first to arrive at the scene when he crashed into the backyard of the Timothy W. Williamson home at 2071 Middlebrook Road.

DEVENISH, who was taken to Torrance Memorial Hospital, was released later, apparently without injury.

Still hospitalized is Mrs. Pearl Riggles, 53, of 2042 Kathy Way, who was injured when the plane slammed through her backyard after glancing off the roof of the J. W. Crew house next door. Mrs. Riggles was seated in a wicker chair under an acacia tree when the plane hit the tree, crashed through the Riggles greenhouse, and flipped into the Williams yard behind the Riggles home. A telephone pole at the corner of the yard caught the right wing of the plane, shearing it off.

WORKMEN making alterations to the Gordon Jones residence at 2054 Reynosa Drive,

heard the crash and vaulted over fences to get to the craft along with a neighbor whose identity was not learned.

H. M. Carr, Edward and David Myers, Sam Servidio, C. Z. Cook, and Garry Petrio were on the scene within seconds. The men, believing that Devenish was not breathing, lifted the plane's fuselage enough to free the pilot, and carried him clear of the wreckage.

The pilot told police he had taken off from Torrance Municipal Airport a few minutes before the crash and had planned to go to Indio. He was attempting to return to the field after something hit his windshield when the crash occurred, he said.

Devenish, an electronics engineer for the Northonics Division of Northrop Aircraft, has been a pilot for nearly 20 years, police were told.

SEVERAL witnesses told police the plane seemed to be coming at full throttle just before the crash. A check by Asst. Chief M. H. Porter, who is a veteran pilot, showed that the magneto switch was off and the throttle closed in the wrecked craft.

"This is common in controlled crashes," Porter explained. When a pilot sees he is going to crash, he does this to reduce the chances of fire, he added. Mrs. Crew, whose home took

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CRASH SCENE . . . Path of the light plane which crashed in the Kettler Knolls area Friday afternoon is shown here, looking southwest from the Robert Riggles home at 2042

Kathy Way. Mrs. Riggles received several severe cuts when the plane sheared off a tree in her backyard. The pilot was apparently uninjured. (Herald photo)



AWAITS AMBULANCE . . . Pilot Aubrey L. Devenish lies under a blanket while awaiting an ambulance after his plane crashed here Friday afternoon. With him are Sgt. Don Hamilton, Lt. Swayne Johnson (in uniform) and David Myers (right), one of the workmen who pulled Devenish from the plane. (Herald photo)



INJURED IN CRASH . . . Mrs. Pearl Riggles, who was sitting in this same chair when the plane glanced off the roof of the house next door, through her greenhouse, and into an adjoining yard, is comforted by a neighbor while awaiting aid. (Herald photo)

On Tuesday Council To Get Matter

City employees seeking approval of outside jobs in addition to their regular city employment will ask for a maximum of 24 hours when they present their case to the council here Tuesday evening, the HERALD learned yesterday.

A recommendation of the council by its personnel committee will recommend that city employees be limited to 16 hours a week on outside or "moonlight" jobs.

A number of city workers told the HERALD that the 16-hour limit on outside employment was unrealistic and arbitrary.

THE COUNCIL'S personnel committee, composed of Councilmen Draie, Jahn, and Beasly, will recommend that the city's personnel ordinance be amended to permit employees to work at jobs outside of their city employment subject to the following conditions:

1. The outside work be compatible with and in no way conflict with city employment.
2. The outside employment shall be determined to be non-hazardous, nor the type of work where the likelihood of injury or strain could result, or cause undue fatigue which could result in undermining health and interference

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Claim Filed

Residents Seek \$40,000 Damage

Damages totaling \$40,000 were sought this week by four Harbor City homeowners who charge that excavations for a city alley caused that much

damage to their homes and property.

In a claim filed with the Los Angeles city council, the residents ask for damages of \$10,000 for each of the four homes which the excavation damaged.

Seeking the settlement are Mr. and Mrs. Marvin A. Rathburn, 1626 W. 249th St.; Mr. and Mrs. Leo H. Grooms, 1510 W. 249th St.; Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Meyer, 1506 W. 249th St.; and Mr. and Mrs. Ray Hutson, 1622 W. 249th St.

Charging that the city of Los Angeles is owner of the right of way for utility purposes extending five feet onto the property of the complainants, the complaint prepared by Atty. David K. Lyman of the law firm of Woolley and Woolley alleges that the Griffith Company, acting with license from the city of Los Angeles, took away so much earth from property that subsidence caused heavy damage to the four homes.

In the case of the Grooms home, a concrete block fence collapsed into the alley and other properties were damaged. Other damaged structures include a swimming pool, garages, walls, and dwelling houses, the complaint charges.

Councilman John S. Gibson Jr. this week reported that the city had ordered the contractor to restore the fences which collapsed.

Man Given Jail Term on Checks

A convicted check passer who began floating no account checks within a week after he was placed on summary probation for similar charges was handed consecutive 30-day sentences Friday when he appeared before Municipal Judge Otto B. Willett here.

Guy Roger Gill, 42, of Inglewood, had been sought for more than two months by Det. Sgt. Mickey Fischer, head of the city's check detail, for questioning about checks he allegedly signed on nonexistent bank accounts. He made a specialty of passing the checks in amounts of \$10 to service station operators, Sergeant Fischer said.

Gill was arrested by Gardena traffic officers when he was stopped for a traffic violation. A check by the officers showed he was wanted by Torrance, and Fischer and Officer Jim Davis took Gill into custody from the Gardena officers.

A Penny for your Thoughts

"Do you feel that the Bible should be read in the public schools?"

That was the question the HERALD's inquiring photographer asked several persons in Torrance this week. Their pictures and answers appear below.

Ralph W. Brown, 3327 188th St., security worker: "I believe it should. We read the Bible in school when I was a child, and I feel it is still a good way to open a class."

H. C. Bolvard, National Supply Co. supervisor: "Yes. As long as the passages selected have a non-sectarian connotation, it is all right to read the Bible in public school."

Duncan, 1211 El Prado, dining maintenance work-

No. I believe each individual is entitled to his own beliefs, and if he does not believe in the Bible, he shouldn't have to listen to it at school. If there is no one in a particular school who would be offended by it, then it would be acceptable there."

Clara Tilton, 1519 W. 208th St., housewife: "Yes, I definitely do. I am a Sunday School teacher, and I feel that it would be good for the pupils of the public schools to become acquainted with the teachings of the Bible."

Charles D. Virden, 1425 1/2 Marcelina, public accountant: "I am sure it should be read in the public schools if it isn't already. Yes, I do approve of reading the Bible in the public schools."

Retiring Banker To Be Honored

A tribute to Dean L. Sears, who retires at the end of this month after more than 30 years with the Bank of America, will be voiced Tuesday noon at a testimonial luncheon honoring him at the Torrance Civic Auditorium. Sears, who came to Torrance in 1935 as manager of the local branch, will retire May 31.