



MAKING DEBUT . . . Showing off the new four-seater Thunderbird which made its debut this week are Vel Militech (left) owner of Vel's Ford Sales Co., 1420 Cabrillo Ave., Dwight Eubank, general manager of the firm, Militech, former president of the firm, has announced purchase of the pioneer Torrance Ford agency. Engineer Bill of KTTV will be on hand this afternoon to help in the double celebration. (Herald Photo)

Obituaries

Thelma Leona Dawes

Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m., Tuesday, for Mrs. Thelma Leona Dawes, 45, 1629 W. 204th St. Rites will be in Stone and Myers Chapel, with the Rev. Elmer Prout officiating.

A native of Lorraine, Kans., she was an inspector at the Harvey Aluminum Corp. for 12 years. Burial will be in Roosevelt Cemetery.

Survivors include two sons, James and Eddie, 1528 W. 204th St.; three sisters, Verna, Gladys, and Irene Geenens of Missouri; Virgil Trower, Texas, and Melvin Trower, Missouri; and Carrie Trower, Missouri.

Bertha Virginia Meeks

Final rites for Mrs. Bertha Virginia Meeks, 36, 22311 S. Figueroa St., were held Tuesday in Stone and Myers Chapel, with the Rev. Arthur Richardson officiating. She died Feb. 6.

She was a native of Mississippi and had lived here 12 years.

Survivors include her husband, Will; son, Charles; daughters, Patricia and Martha Meeks, all of Torrance, and Mrs. Bobbie Huffman, Sun Val-

ley; father, Herbert Prince, Mississippi; and sisters, Mrs. Adela Crum, Memphis, Tenn., and Julie Crum, Mississippi.

Pallbearers were Russell Means, Bob Smith, Lee Lawrence, Russell Smith, Bennie Huffman, Fred Shaw, Danny Briener, Lester Ashmore, and Gene Huffman.

Mary Guerrero

Mass will be celebrated at 9:15, Monday morning, for Mrs. Mary Guerrero, 48, 1523 E. 220th St., in the Church of the Nativity, with the Rev. F. M. Callahan officiating.

A native of Mexico, she had lived in this area for 45 years. Burial will be in Artesia Cemetery. Rosary was recited Saturday night in Stone and Myers Chapel.

Survivors include her husband, Manuel; sons, Frank, Eledoro, Johnny, Isidro, Mickey, and Joe; and daughters, Mikki Lara, and Rita, Esther, Lupe, Eleanor, and Mary Guerrero.

A short fellowship and coffee will follow. Child care is provided and the children are invited into the first part of the worship meeting.

RAIL MILEAGE
Argentina is said to have more miles of railroad than any other country in South America.

... Seek Desperados ... City Candidates

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would have hesitated to use the guns if we'd made any trouble," declared Ray Garrett. "I might have tried to jump them if my mother and sister hadn't been here."

All in all, the Garretts don't bear the pair any particular grudge, although they "ought to serve their time and get what's coming to them."

The whole family remained fairly calm throughout the 24-hour captivity, but Ray noted, "I could tell Mom was nervous by watching her, but she really didn't show it much. Mary was too young to really realize what could have happened."

Little Sleep
Mrs. Garrett and her daughter are spending the week end in Arcadia with relatives, but the two boys are staying in the apartment "answering a million phone calls." Ray went to work as usual Friday night, despite the fact that he had only two hours sleep in the previous 65 hours.

"Man, am I tired," he yawned yesterday.
The drama started about 1 a.m., Thursday, by the General Telephone Co. switching office in Hermosa Beach, as Tom Garrett sat in his car, waiting for Ray to get off work. A man came to the window and asked if he had an extra radio fuse.

As Garrett opened the glove compartment, the man showed him a gun, motioned to a companion, and crawled into the car.

What to Lose?
"Right then, I wasn't sure whether I was going to lose my car or my life and I was kinda shook up," Garrett recalls.

They waited for Ray Garrett to get off work and one of the pair crawled into the driver's seat and they headed for the Garrett apartment, where Mrs. Garrett and her daughter were in bed.

Presently, Mrs. Garrett got up to see who was making the noise and saw the guns held by her son's companions.
"There wasn't much I could do, so we all just sat there and talked," she told police.

As the day passed, Mrs. Garrett fixed meals for everyone and the group alternately talked, played cards, and watched television. The escapees were not rough or discourteous, the family reported, although they warned the Garretts not to try to report them.

Family Watched

One of the pair constantly watched the family, while the other slept. Once, Blackburn went to the grocery store to buy some groceries and adhesive tape which was later used to bind the Garrett family as the desperados made their escape.

They called Ray's office to report the he wouldn't be there that night and Mary's school to say that she wouldn't attend.

One of the men mentioned that he had been on dope for nine years and the Garretts got the impression that Rhonemus and Blackburn intended to go to Mexico.

See Thunderbird
In the evening the pair noticed a white Thunderbird in front in which David Carrell, South Gate, was picking up the women in the next apartment, Mrs. Lilly Ann Kiley, 27-year-old divorcee. They weren't quick enough to stop them when they drove away, but when the couple returned about 12:30, Blackburn and Rhonemus jumped Carrell as he was opening the apartment door.

They bound and gagged Mrs. Kiley, Carrell, and the Garretts, after exchanging clothes with the two Garrett boys. Then they made their escape, but not before thoughtfully loosening Mrs. Kiley's gag when she gasped for air.

They also had Mrs. Garrett call her daughter-in-law to pick her up at 9 a.m. the next morning, in case the family should not get free from their bonds before that time. Carrell, however, managed to free himself and called police.

Has Record
According to Deputy District Atty. Allen McCurdy, Blackburn has a record dating back to 1951, including arrests and convictions for auto theft, assault with a deadly weapon, and burglary. The pair and a third man, who later turned himself in, had escaped from a jail in San Luis Obispo Tuesday. They stole a car and drove to Paso Robles and burglarized a sporting goods store of guns and ammunition. They stole a second car from a woman in Grover City and drove to Los Angeles. They stole a car in Redondo, and apparently abandoned this car when they accosted the Garretts boys.

Despite their records, Mrs. Garrett said the men both were like guests, behaving very politely. They did take \$23 from the Garretts and \$50 from Carrell.

But they were chivalrous about it.

"As they left they said goodbye," Tom Garrett said. "And they tossed \$10 of our money back and said, 'Here's \$10 till next pay day.'"

Egghouse Entered

Kenneth L. Christofferson, 3516 W. Emerald St., told local police someone had entered his egg house and stole a cash box.

Locked in the box was \$100, the man said. The egg house is attached to the garage at the Christofferson ranch.

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For Mayor
Albert Isen, 1502 Ingracia, attorney. Will appear on the ballot as the incumbent, first elected to public office four years ago as councilman. Mayor since 1955 when he succeeded Nick Drale. Has extensive holdings in downtown Torrance business property, past president of the Torrance Lions Club and South Bay Bar Assn. Endorsed by Central Labor Council of San-Pedro-Wilmington.

Dearl Craft, 4812, leader for oil company. A resident of the new Southwood Tract in Torrance, first appearance in Torrance politics.

Nickolas O. Drale, 3431 W. 171st St., real estate and insurance. A member of the city council since 1948, and former mayor who stepped aside in 1955 according to custom to rotate the office among members. Long time member of Steelworkers Local 1414 and former employe of Columbia-Geneva Steel Co. Has endorsement of Steelworkers union.

John B. Feltes, 1820 Arlington Ave., caster, American Standard.

Walter G. Ryan, 1533 Marcelina Ave., machinist. Background and employment unknown. Was candidate for council two years ago, but could not be located by HERALD reporters for information. Polled only 455 votes out of approximately 7500 cast in 1956 election.

For City Council
Willis G. Blount, 1444 Engracia, sales engineer. Member of city council since 1950, resident here since 1948. Member of Torrance Rotary Club, Masonic Lodge 447, Knights Templar and Al Malaikah Temple of the Shrine. A strong advocate of city manager form of government and placing of responsibility for administration in the hands of city manager and department heads, leaving policy only to be decided by the council.

Thomas B. Abrams, 2657 Loftyview Dr., refinery worker. President of the Torrance Airport Commission, and active in Victoria Knolls homeowners affairs.

J. A. Beasley, 24240 Ocean Ave., electroplating foreman. Former operator of a feed and garden supply business in WALTERIA, he joined Felker Manufacturing Co. in 1950 and has been employed there except for a short period as a city employe. Active in WALTERIA business and social affairs, helped found WALTERIA Businessmen's Assn., WALTERIA Community Methodist Church, and was charter member of the WALTERIA Kiwanis Club.

George A. Bradford, 1323 Beech Ave., manufacturer. A graduate of Torrance High School, attended Stanford and University of California. Former general superintendent of Los Angeles Shipyards, assistant general manager and chief engineer for West Coast Shipbuilding, established training school for Navy during World War II, was mechanical design engineer for Douglas Aircraft in Long Beach before opening George A. Bradford Co. at 1915 Abalone in 1952. Member of the Chamber of Commerce board of directors, and chair-

man of the Tournament of Roses float committee. Past president of Torrance Optimist Club.

David V. Figueredo, 1730 Date Ave., filling station operator. Graduate of Torrance High School, active in Torrance Optimist Club where he now serves as first vice president, member of the Torrance planning commission.

Thrvin Fleetwood, 3637 W. 182nd St., serviceman Southern California Gas Co. Attended public schools in Oklahoma and Missouri graduating from high school in 1941. Worked for General Motors and Veterans Administration prior to coming to California in 1948. Member of Torrance planning commission since 1954, president of Torrance Democrats, Inc., from 1954 to 1956, and now a member of the Democratic County Central Committee.

Virgil Hancock, 3531 Madison Court, service station operator. Past president of the WALTERIA Businessmen's Club, member of Torrance Elks, South Torrance Lions, Zeta Epsilon, and active with youth organizations. Former high school track and basketball star, was named All-Star in junior and senior years in basketball, still a sports fan from Little Leagues to professionals. Established home here after serving with U. S. Air Force during World War II. Is member of WALTERIA Community Methodist Church.

Albert Hinz, 4733 Paseo de la Playa, industrial relations director. Now director of industrial relations for Harvey Aluminum, former production manager for large Southland firm employing 10,000 persons. Born and raised in the area, he has been active in Aircraft and related industries for many years, was chairman for the Lions Club Drag Strip, chairman for Red Cross, Community Chest, and Cancer Fund drives; was honored with the American Legion National Award for contributing the most to hiring of handicapped persons in 1957. Has served as a member of the U. S. Bureau of National Affairs Policy Forum. Is a member at large for the Los Angeles Civil Service examining board. Advocates leaving administrative problems of the city in the hands of the personnel hired by the city.

Roger "Pat" Hogue, 4630 Toucan St., sheet metal foreman. A native of Arkansas, attended high school at Junction City, Ark., and Santa Monica Technical School. Served on Carrier "Yorktown" for 26 months during World War II, is now president of Southwest Park Civic Assn. and board member of Torrance Babe Ruth League.

Was a member of North Torrance Little League and Venice Little League for two years each. A member of the Optimist Club of El Dorado, Ark., for two years. Resident here since 1954.

Alexander Mazza, 602 Palos Verdes Blvd., experimental engineer.

Clifford J. Peterson, 222720 Crosshill, attorney. A resident of Torrance since 1952, Peterson is a member of the legal firm of Cowan and Peterson of Redondo Beach. He completed pre-law work at Compton College and took his law degree from Southwestern University. Father of four children, Peterson says he is seeking election to the city council because he wants a place for his children to grow up. "Torrance

is a wonderful city, and I want to work to keep it that way," he said. He would concentrate on city-school cooperation, especially on programs for youth activities. He is vice president of the Allied Gardens Assn., member of Redondo Beach Kiwanis and Elks, and institutional representative for five Scout units sponsored by the Seaside PTA.

Muri Reeves, 3938 W. 176th St., warehouseman. Past president of the North Torrance Civic Improvement Assn., currently legislative committeeman for the group, charter member of North Torrance Lions Club and member of Fraternal Order of Eagles. Is employed as a warehouseman for wholesale liquor distributor in Los Angeles.

James E. Thompson, 2031 Gramercy Ave., engineer, Macco Corp. Former member of Torrance police department, assigned to accident investigation and prevention for five years, past president of Torrance Police Officers Assn., former chairman and spokesman for Co-ordinating Council of City Employees, was first president of Fraternal Order of Police in California. Ran for council two years ago polling 1112 votes out of a possible 7500. Has endorsement of Central Labor Council of Wilmington.

George Vico, 219 Paseo de las Delicias, public relations. Former major league baseball star, Vico started with Detroit Tigers in 1941, ended career last year on part-time basis with Hollywood Stars as first baseman. Resident of Torrance for 12 years. Member of the city's recreation commission for a year, member of Kiwanis Club, Detroit Masonic Lodge, and is division chairman for the American National Red Cross. Is employed by Dominguez Estates Co.

Richard B. Wilson, 109 Calle de Arboles, real estate. Veteran of Naval Seabees in World War II, has lived in South Bay area 12 years, in present home three years. Native of South Bend, Ind. Basic schooling in Chicago, graduated from Woodbury College with B.B.A. In real estate profession seven years, and has own business in north Redondo Beach. Member of YMCA 25 years, active as counselor and swim instructor.

School Board Post Sought By Incumbent

Clinton B. Cooke was the first to toss his hat in the ring in the race for the Torrance School Board elections to be held on May 20.

A member of the board for the past two years, Cooke and Charlton A. Meyborn will come up for re-election in the spring balloting. Only two of the five posts are at stake this time.

Filings for the board are now open, with declarations of candidacy due by April 18. They must be filed in the office of the Los Angeles County Superintendent of Schools.

Candidate's forms may be obtained at the Torrance Unified School District Administrative offices, 2335 Plaza del Amo, or at the office of the County Superintendent of Schools, division of elections, 808 N. Spring St., Los Angeles. Candidates must be registered voters and residents of the area served by the school district.

To be eligible to vote in the election, all voters must register by March 27.

Y's Men Get New Members In Ceremony

The Y's Men's Club of Torrance participated in a district meeting of Y's Men International this week as Roy Naylor, district governor for the International YMCA adult service club, honored the local club by inducting three new members in an impressive candle-light ceremony.

New members inducted were Charles Settle, William Kesselman, and Douglas Cannon. They became part of Y's Men International, with more than 600 clubs in 33 countries of the world.

Bill Floyd, a charter member of the Torrance club, and a past district governor, presented a new banner and charter to the host club, San Pedro.

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If you're a homemaker, married and 21 years of age or over, you're eligible to enter the famous "Mrs. America" Competition co-sponsored by your Gas Company. Personally, appearance, community and family interests are considered in the judging, but the major emphasis will be on your ability to cook, sew and iron. Pick up official entry blank at your nearest Southern California or Southern Counties Gas Company office right away. Your application must be postmarked not later than Sat., March 15.

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