

# COUNCIL ACTS TO WIPE OUT OIL SUMP DEATH TRAPS

189 OPERATIONS



**COME-BACK . . .** Joseph A. Cox, 36, of 1306 Madrid, has undergone 189 operations since receiving critical head injuries on Okinawa in 1945. He hopes to attend UCLA soon. Cox attributes a great part of his recovery to his faithful wife, Marion, and to his children (l-r) Faye, 5, Sharon, 12, Inez, 8, and Marty Joe, 3. Another daughter, Marlene, 10, was "out playing."

## Okinawa Vet Optimistic After 189 Operations

Joseph A. Cox, 36, of 1306 Madrid is happy to be alive now and is hopeful about leading an active life—but getting to this point has been a long, grim, and painful struggle.

Cox, who was in the Navy during World War II, was blown up by a land-mine on Okinawa in '45. His head and face were mutilated and his body paralyzed. He was unconscious for five months. Since the episode, he has had 189 operations costing the government an estimated \$300,000.

"It was the fact that I was unconscious so long which actually saved my life," Cox recalls. "I was evacuated to Saipan where the first operations were performed. Because I was unconscious I did not feel the pain of the wounds or of the operation."

**Praises Doctors**  
Then followed a series of (Turn to Page 6)

## Three Skill Saws Stolen

Three skill saws, valued at \$50 each, were stolen from the Pomeroy Construction company at Union Carbon and Carbide, Hawthorne and Del Amo some time last week, according to Det. Sgt. Percy Bennett.

Unquestionably the saws were taken by someone who has been working around there, Bennett stated. The saws are greased every Monday and the individual who took them must have known that they would not be missed until the following Monday, Bennett said.

## Must Find Dog Which Bit Girl

A 15-year-old Torrance high school girl was bitten by a stray dog on her way to school Monday morning. Unless the dog is located soon, the girl will have to undergo painful Pasteur treatment, as a safeguard against rabies.

Bitten on the calf of her right leg was Emma Mills, 15, of 2451 West 136th place, Torrance.

She was walking along 231st street between Pennsylvania avenue and Arlington. She recognized the dog as the same one which had barked at her for several mornings.

The dog was described as a brown, shaggy dog, a mongrel, looking something like a cocker spaniel or terrier.

Robert A. Mills, father of the girl, asks that individuals with information regarding the dog contact him at Mary's cafe, 1645 Border, FA. 8-1409 or at his home, DA. 6-5886.



**TOM WATSON**  
... selected

## Chamber Board Selects New Executive-Secretary

Tom V. Watson, 46, who worked eight years with the United States Chamber of Commerce, was offered the job of executive-secretary of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce.

The decision was reached Monday by the board of directors of the Torrance Chamber.

**LATE BULLETIN:** While formal acceptance of the Chamber's offer was still being awaited, indications were that Watson was willing to assume the new post, Paul Loranger, Chamber president, stated as this paper went to press.

A reply from Watson was awaited this week, following a telegram sent to him informing him of the board's action.

Board members felt that Watson was ideally qualified for the local post, having dealt with numerous chambers of commerce in the southwestern division.

It was thought that his wide experience with the operation of other chambers would be of great value to the local community.

Watson, who told a screening committee that he wished to settle down in one spot rather than continue traveling (Turn to Page 11)

## LATE NEWS

**OPERATED ON:** City Clerk A. H. Bartlett was operated on yesterday morning in Torrance Memorial Hospital. His condition, according to hospital officials, was "good." Bartlett's operation had been postponed one week.

**KAUFFMAN TRACT:** While approving plans for the first section of the huge new Kauffman tract at Hawthorne avenue and Torrance boulevard, the City Council refused to grant the Dominguez Water company rights to serve the area. The city plans to start condemnation proceedings and take over the area itself.

**BOOKMAKING:** Trial on charges of bookmaking placed against Judson Alsop, 38, his wife, Margaret, 34, and Mrs. Laurine Trimble, 38, of 25225 Denny road, Waverly, has been (Turn to Page 11)

Determined to eliminate hazards in the Torrance oil fields once and for all, members of the City Council ordered that an ordinance be drawn up "with teeth in it" to prevent future tragedies.

Firm and swift action followed in the wake of an accident two weeks ago in which a little 2-year-old girl nearly lost her life when she fell into an unfenced sump. She was rescued just in time by her 6-year-old brother.

### Five Points

The new ordinance will incorporate five points recommended by George Powell, land use coordinator:

1. Outlawing the use of sumps;
2. Employing tight chain-link fences instead of chicken wire fences or the like;
3. Imposing penalty fees for derricks over abandoned wells;

4. Cleaning up of a lease within 60 days;
5. Posting performance bonds for 1956, so the city can use this money to make the necessary improvements if the operator fails to do so.

When asked what the oil well situation was by the Council, Powell stated:

"It will present a problem time and time again as long as our ordinances are as difficult to enforce as now. There is an obvious disregard of property values in the South Torrance oil field with dumping being done at night.

### Do Away With Sumps

"The oil field will always remain a hazard till we have a new ordinance. I am in favor of doing away with sumps instead of fencing (Turn to Page 6)"

# TORRANCE PRESS

10¢

The Largest Circulation Newspaper in Torrance

VOLUME VI

THURSDAY, MARCH 17, 1955 — TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA

No. 49

## 2 Sentenced To Prison On Dope Rap

Sentenced Friday from one to ten years in prison for possession of narcotics were Jerry E. Codd, 21, of 1648 W. 221st st. and Sgt. Donald Lee White, 23, of Fort MacArthur.

The pair pleaded guilty to the charge January 13.

Though probation was recommended the sentence was imposed by Superior Court Judge Joseph M. Malby because the men had allegedly been selling the narcotics.

Sheriff's Deputy Everett L. Stahl testified that the men said they found three marijuana plants growing in Lomita and had harvested them to sell.

Twenty-one popcorn bags of narcotics were found under a bed in Codd's home on Dec. 17, Stahl said.

## Surrenders After Passing Bad Checks

A tech/sergeant, AWOL from Fort MacArthur, returned to his camp and gave himself up for passing \$600 of worthless checks.

Arrested for passing bad checks, \$400 of which were cashed in the Torrance area, was Tech/Sgt. Ray L. Berry, 34, of 418 West 234th street, Wilmington, according to Det. Sgt. Percy Bennett.

Berry stated that he wrote the checks to pay gambling debts and was unable to make restitution. He has been in the army 12 years.

## LET OUR READERS HELP YOU

Got a problem? Don't tell it to your neighbor. Tell it to us and we'll tell it to our thousands of readers. One of them is bound to have the answer.

That's what Mrs. E. H. Coburn of 24203 Walnut did. She wanted to sell her trailer and placed the following ad in the Torrance classified section:

**FOR SALE:** 23 ft. Columbia trailer. Like new. Fully equipped. Sacrificed for immediate cash. 24203 Walnut, Lomita. DA. 6-4751

By 9 a.m. Thursday morning, the trailer was sold.

"I obtained the price I wanted and still received countless calls after I sold the trailer," Mrs. Coburn said.

It's easy to place a classified ad. Call FA. 8-2345 and ask for "classified." A friendly salesgirl will help you word your inexpensive ad just right and help you keep the number of words down to a minimum.

## In Yokohama

Pvt. James D. Rathbun, son of Mrs. Rene Dean, 1443 Post ave., Torrance, recently arrived in Yokohama and is now a member of the Engineer Depot.

# Annexation Move Halted By Illegal Proceedings

## Argument Costs Man 25 Bucks

Robert E. Hurst, 38, of 4544 East Fifty-seventh street, Maywood, charged with assault and battery, drawing a firearm in the presence of others, and carrying a concealed weapon, got off by paying a \$25 fine in Judge John Shidler's South Bay Municipal court Tuesday.

Hurst was arrested last week after pulling a gun in the presence of acquaintances and punching a man at 20706 South Normandie following an argument.

Judge Shidler imposed a \$25 fine for assault and battery. A \$50 fine or 10 days in jail on charge of drawing a firearm in the presence of others was suspended.

The third count, carrying a concealed weapon, was dismissed, according to court officials.

## Vandals Slash Tractor Belts

Juveniles were suspected of causing around \$200 worth of damage at the Caswell company, Madrona and Del Amo, where 13 tractor belts and a seat were slashed and cut with a hunting knife last week-end.

Copper wiring on the tractors were also twisted, according to Sgt. D. C. Cook.

## Gunman Takes \$60 in Liquor Store Robbery

A pistol-packing bandit, who needed money bad, robbed a 21-year-old attendant of \$60 in cash at the Keystone Liquor store, 21923 S. Main st., Keystone, shortly after 1 a.m. Saturday.

Victim of the hold-up was Alex T. Wysocki, 21, of 168 E. 232nd st., Wilmington, according to Lennox sheriffs.

### Asks For 'Alex'

Wysocki was standing behind the counter near the cash register when the bandit entered, asking,

"Is Alex here?"  
"No, he's not."

"Well, is his wife here?" the man asked.

Wysocki informed him that the two would not be back until morning.

Thereupon the suspect, who had his right hand in his right (Turn to Page 11)

## Police Boundary Changed

Effective July 1, Firestone sheriff's station will take over the county area west of Main street extending to Normandie, James G. Caldwell, president of the Carson Civic Betterment association was notified by sheriff's department.

This will eliminate the Main street dividing line. The area west of Main street is now serviced by Lennox sheriffs.

Caldwell expressed appreciation of the association to the sheriff's department, the Board of Supervisors, and all organizations of the Carson district for their assistance.

## Heart Attack Takes Train Conductor

Delbert H. Brock, 46, Pacific Electric conductor, who lived at 1329 West Carson street, died of a heart attack as he reported for work early Monday morning at the local station, 1200 Border avenue.

Brock was discovered by Claude L. Smith, train crew engineer, according to police. Brock had just stepped from the platform to the train step when he had a heart seizure and fell to the ground, according to police records.

Brock was said to have been under a physician's care for a heart condition for some time.

## CITY MUST START FROM BEGINNING

Present annexation proceedings before the Torrance City Council involving 6513 acres in the Rolling Hills area are all off, for all practical purposes. It has to be done all over again because of a legal fly in the ointment.

It was discovered last week that 19 registered voters live in the area proposed for annexation. The law states that the landholders (Great Lakes Carbon) can offer land for annexation only if there are less than 12 registered voters in the area to be annexed.

Otherwise the issue must be placed before those voters. These developments were confirmed by David Evans, attorney for Great Lakes.

### Possible Moves

Evans stated that one of two moves is possible now:

- 1) Place the matter before the 19 voters or
- 2) Redraft the boundaries so as to reduce the number of voters.

Redrafting the boundaries is the faster of the two methods, Evans stated. Everything which has transpired before the Torrance City Council is ineffective for all practical purposes, Evans said, and new annexation proceedings must and will be instituted.

### PV On Way

The delay would simply be an inconvenience if it were not for the fact that Palos Verdes (Turn to Page 6)

# Four-Day Celebration Hails Clark Square Grand Opening

**MODERN SHOPPING CENTER . . .** A four-day grand opening will be celebrated starting today through Sunday at Clark Square, the new shopping center located at Hawthorne ave. and Pacific Coast highway. Gifts, specials, and entertainments will be featured.

—Press photo



A spectacular four-day grand opening complete with hundreds of gifts, entertainment, and money-saving bargains will mark the official opening of Clark Square, the name given the new and modern shopping center, corner Hawthorne ave. and Pacific Coast highway.

The celebration, starting today, will last through and including Sunday.

In addition to offering many bargain-packed special stores in Clark Square will provide four days of entertainment and gifts, including a television set for a grand prize.

**Entertainment Schedule**  
Entertainment, lasting anywhere from half an hour to an hour, will be featured Thursday, 4 p.m.; Friday, 4 and 7 p.m.; Saturday, 1, 4, and 7 p.m.; and Sunday, 3 p.m.

Following the entertainment prizes will be given away. Tick (Turn to Page 2)

St. Patrick's Day

# Wear Your Green Tie Today—Begorrah!



St. Patrick's Day

3011111, HAWTHORNE, MONROE, DRAWER 127 P.O. FOREMAN