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TOTS SNATCHED FROM DEATH

Man Severely Burned in Underground Blast Here

Explosion Felt for Miles

A workman was seriously burned in an underground explosion at Pacific Coast Hwy. and Western Ave., which rocked buildings more than a mile away Friday morning.

Adolph Madrid, 43, of Los Angeles, was badly scorched with second and third degree burns while he was working on a storm drain installation south of Pacific Coast Hwy.

Los Angeles firemen who rushed four engines to the scene, said that the flash fire burned only briefly while Madrid was underground.

The workman was reportedly inspecting the connection to be cemented to a manhole when the blast took place.

Firemen helped free Madrid from his underground tomb, with Carlos Mondujane having to jump several feet down, because the rungs of the ladder were too hot to touch.

The fire burned only briefly and was out at the time firemen arrived.

Firemen were not immediately sure what touched off the explosion but are investigating the possibility of accumulated gas being ignited.

Madrid was treated at Harbor General Hospital and then transferred to Riviera Hospital, where he is confined with second and third degree burns on his head, hands, arms, legs and upper part of his body.



FOSTER MOTHER—When "Queen" boxer dog belonging to Mr. and Mrs. John C. Wishman, 135 E. 229th Place, gave birth to a litter of puppies, Nov. 30, she was a proud mother. But within a few days all her pups died, and she went berserk. There

was only one cure. Mrs. Wishman was able to locate a litter of seven dachshunds whose mother died at birth. Adoption proceedings were immediately started, and now "Queen" is happily nursing her substitute children.

—Press Photo

Planners Change Highways

Realignments and down-grading of several major arteries in the Torrance area, were approved by the County Regional Planning Commission Thursday.

Amendments to the Master Plan of Highways involve several major streets in and adjacent to Torrance.

Under the order, Inglewood Ave. and Redondo Blvd. between Aviation Blvd. and Del Amo Blvd. will be dropped as a secondary highway because the frontage is entirely developed and will make widening impractical.

The commission proposed to realign Aviation Blvd. between Compton and Redondo Beach Blvds., in conformance with the Inter-City Highway Commission recommendation.

Realignment of Del Amo Blvd., easterly of Prospect Ave. to avoid improved properties, and in the section between Main St. to a point easterly of Avalon Blvd.

Another step was to remove Dolores St., as a secondary highway between Main and Willow Sts. A study by the Road Department revealed that Dolores St. is not necessary as a major north-south link.

Arveda Rd. will be removed as a major road between 223rd St. and Moneta Ave., because no right-of-way has been acquired.

The commission also ordered that Montemalaga Dr., between Silver Spur Rd. and Granvia Altamira be dropped from a major to a secondary highway, and that the same be done with Granvia Altamira between Hawthorne Blvd. and Montemalaga Dr.

Postal Request Denied

The Federal government will have to worry about disposing of concrete posts it no longer needs, the City Council decided Tuesday.

They turned down a request from Postmaster Clara A. Conner, that the city take down the posts which used to base small mail boxes.



PROBE BLAST—Checking cause of an explosion at a storm drain project at Western Ave. and Pacific Coast Highway Friday morning in which one man was seriously burned, from left, Fire Capt. T. A. Thorson, Fireman Calvin Weakman, and Floyd Manlove of the Southern California Gas Co.—Press Photo

Dinner Club to Elect Officers

Fifteen Torrance area men were elected to the board of directors of the newly organized Executives Dinner Club of the Torrance area, according to an announcement by temporary trustee Dean L. Sears.

They will serve terms of office effective Jan. 1 and will elect permanent officers at a meeting to be held at 4 p. m. Monday at the Chamber of Commerce office.

Those elected include Judge Donald Armstrong, George A. Bradford, Ted C. Coleman, Nicholas O. Drake, Dick Fitzgerald, Donald J. Hitchcock, Dr. J. H. Hull, Sam Levy, J. H. Paget, D. D. Parrish, Dick Pyle, Sears, Dr. Rollin R. Smith and Dr. Howard A. Wood.

The group held its inaugural banquet Tuesday at the San Pedro Hacienda with Senator Karl E. Mundt of South Dakota as speaker.

Vel's Immigration Plight Labeled 'Grave Injustice'

The plight of a Torrance veteran who faces loss of his American citizenship because he once served in the Mexican Army was criticized as a "grave injustice" by another World War II veteran.

"I have come to the conclusion that the Immigration Service is entirely in error in their application of the law in this case," wrote Julius Weber, brother of Mrs. Rose Gargalis, of 1809 Reynosa Drive, now temporarily residing in St. James, Mo.

He was aroused by the story of Robert Silva, 27, of 21513 Evelyn Ave., who served in the U. S. Army but was previously conscripted into the Mexican Army when he was 19, and temporarily residing in Mexico. He was born in the United States.

Despite his service for the U. S., he faces loss of his American citizenship because of his Mexican service.

Weber points out that Silva did not vote in Mexico, did not leave the U. S. to avoid military service here since he was taken to Mexico when he was 10 years old, and did not voluntarily serve in a foreign army, but had no choice.

"Therefore it's apparent that the Immigration Service is attempting to apply the facts of the case to fit the law, instead of applying the law to fit the facts," Weber said.

The writer is a former Torrance resident who will return here in the near future to live with his sister.

Betsy Ross (j.g.) Gets Ike Thanks for Flag Idea

Mrs. Jane Chopper's class at Calle Mayor School has received a letter from President Eisenhower's office thanking them for sending him Robert Koppensteiner's design for a 49-star American flag.

Robert's design was voted best of all those in his fifth and sixth grade class and sent to the president.

Wilton B. Persons, assistant to the president, sent the letter to the class, thanking them. More than 1900 suggestions already have been received, he said, and the president has appointed a commission to recommend a new flag. The new design will be announced shortly and will go into effect next July 4.

Robert's winning design was a rather radical departure from the present Old Glory, with the stripes arranged in a triangle and the stars in two smaller triangles. The whole class project arose out of discussions about the admission of Alaska to the union.

Commission Sets Park Priorities

Development of La Romera Park was given first priority recommendation by the Park and Recreation Commission Wednesday.

In discussing the improvement of three small neighborhood parks the commission urged that Paradise Park be developed next, and Los Arboles, third.

La Romera was picked for top priority because it is partially improved and rates precedence because of greater population need, it was decided.

Merchants Capture Suspect

Two alert businessmen captured a bad check artist suspect Thursday and held him until police arrived.

Arrested was Robert W. Hart, 23, a laborer of 22902 Menlo Ave., who attempted to cash a check at Scotty's Department Store, 17504 Crenshaw Blvd., Thursday.

Manager Otis McElroy, whose store had been the victim of a \$1500 safe burglary only Wednesday, had been alerted to the suspect's modus operandi by a bulletin distributed by the Chamber of Commerce, and asked him to wait.

When Hart tried to bolt from the store, McElroy and Clarence Hart, manager of Foods Co., who happened to be in the store at the time, pounced on him and held the suspect captive until police arrived.

The suspect pleaded guilty to a petty theft charge in Torrance Municipal Court Friday and was given a 30-day county jail sentence.

Police said that they had listed the suspect on a check warning bulletin distributed to Torrance businessmen.

Concert Slated At THS

The Torrance High School Music Department will present its fourth annual Christmas concert in the auditorium Dec. 16 at 8:15 p. m.

The concert will be opened with two numbers played by the 60-piece concert band. They also will play two other numbers during the program. The Torrance High School Glee Club will present six Christmas songs. The Tartar a capella choir, composed of 66 students, will sing five numbers. The Madrigal Singers, a special group of the a capella choir, will be featured in two Christmas songs. The Christmas concert will close with a combined choir and a band of all 175 performers to give special treatment to two Christmas songs ending with Irving Berlin's famous and ever popular "White Christmas."

The program was planned and arranged by J. W. Nichols and Vince DiFlore. Nichols is director of the concert band and the Tartar a capella choir. DiFlore is director of the Torrance High School Girls' Glee Club.

The public is invited to attend this annual concert. There will be no admission charge.

Parking Lot Changes Made

Additional parking space will be gained in the improvement of a municipal parking lot at El Prado and Cabrillo Ave., Del Na-deau, president of the Downtown Retail Merchants Association announced today.

He pointed out that the free parking facilities will be available to shoppers during the Christmas shopping season, by enlarging the lot and rearranging its lay-out.

Walteria School Rezoning Denied, Garrett's Approved

A zone change request by the Torrance Unified School District received official "thumbs down" from the City Council Tuesday, which readily approved a zone change for the \$15,000,000 Garrett Corporation plant.

The city fathers tossed out both the request by the school board to rezone the old Walteria School site at 242nd and Ward Sts., and a Planning Commission compromise recommendation for the same site.

The Board of Education asked that the land be rezoned to commercial use, in order that the property sales value be boosted. Following protests from Walteria residents, the Planning Commission suggested the land be zoned for apartments.

The planners' proposal won no friends from either Walteria neighbors nor school officials.

"The Board of Education is not anxious to solicit more children," said Jack E. Long, district land purchasing agent. "We

Boys Asphyxiated By Butane Fumes

Two youngsters were snatched from certain death by asphyxiation Friday when the father of one of them found them in a gas-filled trailer after a desperate search.

The boys, Walter Erickson, Jr., of 1650 W. 215th St., and Michael Edmundson, of 1663 W. 215th St., both 3½, were found unconscious inside a trailer parked in the rear of the Erickson boy's home.

Walter's father and an unidentified bakery salesman applied artificial respiration on the two boys.

The youngsters were taken to Harbor General Hospital in a cab driven by Fred Edmundson, father of Michael, who was called by short wave radio.

Get No Help Erickson, a truck driver, claims that they were unable to summon a fire department rescue squad for 35 minutes after they called them.

"Doesn't it seem humane to let two children die over a squabble over jurisdiction?" he asked bitterly afterward.

Erickson said he and Mrs. Edmundson had been searching for the youngsters, who were hiding from some other children, for more than half an hour before he finally thought of the trailer.

"There they were on the floor. I couldn't get a sign of life out of either of them. I thought they were dead," the father said.

Sneaked Inside He explained that the trailer is supposed to be locked but that someone had left it open and the boys "sneaked" inside, although the Erickson boy had strict orders not to enter it.

Once inside, the boys apparently turned on the butane stove and the fumes knocked them out. Erickson said that while he was applying artificial respiration to his son, a bakery salesman who regularly works in the area, attempted to revive the Edmundson boy.

"We tried to get a pulmonator, but they never did show up," he said.

Locate Father Mrs. Edmundson contacted the cab company to locate her husband, who happened to be cruising in his taxi three blocks away. He drove over and both boys were loaded into the cab and whisked off to the hospital while Erickson and the salesman continued to apply artificial respiration.

On arrival at Harbor General Hospital, oxygen was given to both boys. Michael regained consciousness 15 minutes before Walter.

After spending some time under observation, both were released.

In Shoe-String The Erickson's home is located in the Los Angeles "shoe-string" and is about one-half block outside the Torrance city limits, apparently causing a mix-up in response.

Torrance firemen said they rushed a rescue unit over as soon as they received the call, but that when they arrived, both boys had already been taken to the hospital.

Erickson claims that at least 35 minutes elapsed between the time a call for help was placed and arrival of the first fire unit.

Street Repair Plan Announced

Allocation of \$1550 of gas tax monies for the widening of pavement on 250th St. was approved today by Supervisor Burton W. Chace.

The funds will be used to extend pavement on the north side of 250th St. from Cypress St. to Narbonne Ave. and the south side of 250th St. from Andrus St. to Eschelman Ave. as well as the portion on the south side from Felja Ave. to Cypress St.

Saxon Gridders to Be Honored at Yule Party

North High School varsity gridders, who won the Pioneer League championship this season, will be honored at a Christmas party to be given at Higgins Brick Patio, 2217 W. 174th St., Dec. 16.

Councilman Nicholas O. Drake will serve as chairman of the event, which starts at 7:30 p. m.

The Saxons represented the league in a play-off with Long Beach Poly in the CIF play-offs. It was the first time in the school's four-year history that it has fielded a championship team.

Tot, 2 Woman Hurt in Crash

Two women and a youngster were injured in a two-car collision at Amapola and Sierra Sts. Wednesday.

Taken to Kaiser Foundation Hospital were Mrs. Mary A. Smith, 27, and her son, Steven, 3, of 826 Maple Ave., and Gertrude Haggerty, 57, of 818 Amapola Ave., police said.

The cars were operated by Mrs. Smith and Harold Loy, 44, of Missia, N.M., officers reported.