

**LAST VICTIM DIES**  
Adolph Madrid, 43, of Los Angeles, severely burned in an underground gas explosion in a storm drain project at Pacific Coast Hwy and Western Ave., died in a Torrance hospital Saturday night.

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**Five Promoted in Police Dept.**

A husband and wife are among five members of the Torrance Police Department who will be promoted as of Jan. 1, Police Chief Percy Bennett announced this week.

Elevations included three new lieutenants, one sergeant and one policewoman.

Promoted from sergeant to lieutenant will be Robert Wright, on the department for 10 years, and a sergeant for three, Donald E. Nash, another 10-year vet-

eran, and Gus Rethwisch, who joined the department nine years ago.

Jack Hahn, on the force since

1952, was promoted to sergeant, while his wife, Maxine, was boosted from police matron and file clerk to policewoman.

Assignments of the officers will be made later, Bennett said.



MAXINE HAHN

Slow down to at least 10 mph whenever the pavement gets wet, the Allstate Safety Crusade advises.

**Building Ban  
Imposed Due  
to Water Crisis**

(Continued from Page 1)  
"I understand the fire department is holding its breath because of the inadequacies of the water system," declared Mrs. Bessie Myers, president of the Lomita Property Owners and Taxpayers Association.

The private company serves northern Lomita and parts of South Torrance. It was founded in 1903.

A. E. Cook, vice president and secretary of the company, submitted a written report in which he cites that \$96,105 has been spent on improvements.

He conceded that some of the money was spent on emergency repairs to the distribution system, which had not been anticipated when he filed his original report at the time the company received a rate hike.

He blamed many of the problems in the system on corrosion inside the pipes, mostly those of the customers. Cook said that he tried to repair the worst areas first. He denied that the water is dirty, but claims a yellowish color is due to sulfates in the well.

Lee Schless, Torrance building superintendent, explained that his office now requires written statements from owners of new houses in the area, that they are aware of the low water pressure, and will install booster pumps if the pressure is below 15 pounds.

The Torrance Water Commission has also been concerned about the situation and is studying a proposal to condemn the private company and let the city take it over.

The testimony from the hearing will be reported to the commission which is expected to make a future decision on the case.

The hearing was continued until Jan 26 at 10 a.m. at which time the water company will have to produce evidence of the improvements it undertook in compliance with the original order. The meeting will again be held in Lomita.



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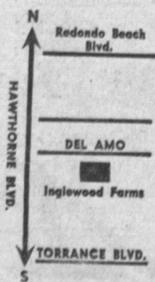
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