



# TORRANCE PRESS

1406 CRAVENS AVE.—FA 8-2345

10c PER COPY

VOL. X 1 • 2 •

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 1959

NUMBER 42

## Crowds Visit Airport, Plane Sent to Laos

Torrance's second annual Airport Day dawned warm, wet and gay, but there was no joy in the crowds of visitors when they learned that the mighty airplane had struck out.

The huge transport, a Douglas C-133A, which was to have been christened "City of Torrance" by Mrs. Albert Isen, wife of the mayor, was called away at the last moment by the airforce.

The plane is on its way to Laos, along with supplies to the natives of that country fighting communist invaders.

"It was a real emergency," said Joe Doss, chairman of airport day. "We were extremely sorry to have to cancel the event, but national defense comes first."

**Tried to Save Plane**  
Doss tried unsuccessfully for two days to halt cancellation of the dedication.

A telegram late Friday from Washington clinched fears of the Day committee that the plane would be needed for the airlift.

According to Doss, the plane probably will be dedicated to Torrance at a future event when the emergency has passed.

Other events on the Airport Day program went off as scheduled, with crowds visiting the displays and open houses run by airport firms.

Kathy Marlow, Hollywood actress, attempted to solo after only one day's lessons, and race planes dashed from the airport to Warner Springs and back.

### Drive to Be Improved

Bids for work on the improvement of Montemalaga Drive from Via Panorama to Silver Spur Road in the vicinity of Palos Verdes Estates will be opened Sept. 29.

This was disclosed today by Supervisor Burton W. Chase following approval of plans and specifications of the project by the County Board of Supervisors.

## New Owners Plan Use of \$250,000 Club Site

No plans have yet been completed for use of the Hollywood Riviera bluff site of the former Riviera club, the property owners told the Press yesterday.

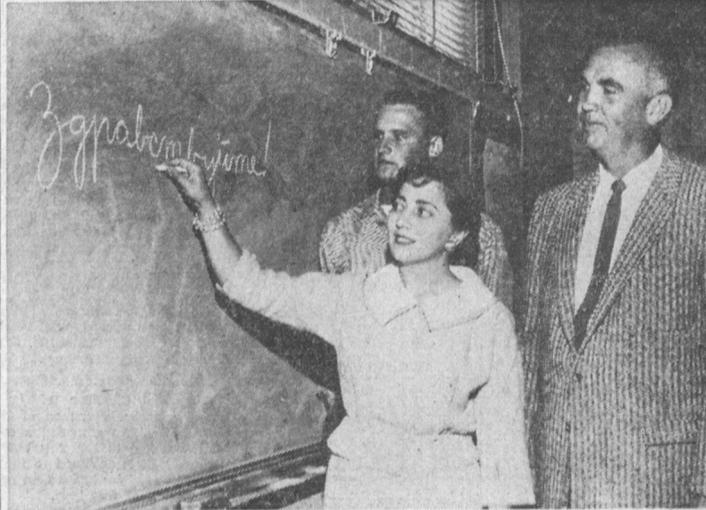
But "we are working on it and might know in two weeks," E. L. Callahan, president of the Huntington Land Co., said.

According to Callahan, the property owners who live in Northern California are presently being contacted as to what they would like to see built on the site.

The club site was auctioned Tuesday for \$250,000.

Because no interest has been paid on the property since the original clubhouse was built 30 years ago, pre-auction speculation had assumed that the club site would sell for a much higher price.

But only one bid—that of



WELCOME IN RUSSIAN—The word meaning "hello" in Russian is here written on the blackboard by South High School language teacher Mrs. Irene Rydelek in order to welcome back to school Jim Hawkins, student body president, and John Lucas, principal. Hawkins leads South High's first senior class and Mrs. Rydelek offers its first class in Russian. The greeting seems appropriate with Premier Khrushchev arriving in Los Angeles next week-end.

## Mayor and Council Tiff Over Proclamation

Mayor Albert Isen, fresh from a tiff with City Council over an invitation to Soviet Premier Khrushchev to visit Torrance, won grudging but unanimous approval of Councilmen for his proclamation of a minute of silence Tuesday, the day Khrushchev arrives in the United States.

Isen issued his proclamation officially yesterday after reading it to Council last Tuesday.

The Mayor appealed to all Torrance residents to stop what they are doing from 11 to 11:01 a.m. on Tuesday.

"It is part of a nationwide movement," he said.

"The dramatic moment when Khrushchev sets forth on Amer-

ican soil is a most appropriate time to demonstrate our nation's faith in God and devotion to freedom," the Mayor said.

**—Moment of Prayer**  
He added, "I hope that other communities will also proclaim this moment of silence and prayer."

Explaining his action, Mayor Isen declared that the visit of the Moscow dictator may well make a historic chapter in the affairs of mankind.

He said, "It is altogether fitting that here in Torrance where we enjoy the benefits and privileges of the American way of life we should meditate and pray in this moment of silence on the hope that President Eisenhower's dramatic bid for world peace may bear fruit."

Councilmen Robert Jahn and Willys Blount objected to the "way the mayor made the proclamation."

Jahn said in council meeting, "I'm just as much for God and motherhood as you are, but I don't think this is an appropriate way to proclaim it."

Jahn proposed making a similar proclamation himself "on the day Khrushchev leaves."

Blount backed up his criticism of the mayor and told Isen that "Jahn has just as much right to make a proclamation as you do."

**Object to Method**  
Councilman J. A. Beasley then told the mayor that the Council was not objecting to either the proclamation or the invitation to Khrushchev, but to "the way these things are dropped upon us without consultation."

After the verbal tiff, Council voted to put itself on record of

the idea of a moment of silence, although Blount added, "I don't want this to mean that we are supporting Khrushchev's visit to this country."

On Aug. 18 Council voted unanimously to disassociate itself from Isen's letter to Secretary of State Herter suggesting a Khrushchev visit to Torrance. (See Proclamation on Page 7)

## Peebles Demands End to City Oil Well Violations

The city director of public works, Wade E. Peebles, this week is "taking action to halt oil well violations in Torrance." An inspection survey reveals 225 violations in the city, including 39 sumps.

Peebles is sending out notices to all the offenders to clear up the problems by Nov. 30, one month after all the notifications are given.

The public works director's action came after stories in the Press revealed presence of the dangerous sumps, and the city council asked stricter enforcement of the recently-passed oil regulations.

All sumps are illegal in Torrance according to the new laws. Peebles said that some wells have improper fencing and marking, other violations of the rules.

**FIRST RAIN YESTERDAY**  
Torrance recorded its first trace of rain of the year early yesterday morning.

# Woman Guilty of Forging Checks

## Signs Name of Housewife

A former Torrance woman who passed checks in the South Bay area signed with the name of a local housewife pleaded guilty Friday to two counts of forgery.

South Bay Municipal Court Judge Otto B. Willett then dismissed six other counts sought by police "in the interests of justice."

Elizabeth K. Ellis, 25, of Chula Vista, is now in county jail. She will be sentenced Oct. 2 in Superior Court in Inglewood.

Police said Mrs. Ellis passed approximately 30 checks for nearly \$15,000 worth of money and merchandise in Torrance and nearby communities.

**Leaves 3 Children**  
Detectives said that Mrs. Ellis left her husband and three children in Chula Vista before embarking on her shopping spree locally.

When a Torrance housewife reported to police that someone was cashing checks in her name, an alert went out.

Gardena police arrested the suspect last Tuesday night and turned her over to the Torrance forgery detail.

According to police, Mrs. Ellis is currently on probation in Los Angeles and San Diego for passing checks without sufficient funds.

### Clark Enters Hospital

Clarence Clark, 41, 15530 Normandie Ave., assistant cashier of the Torrance Bank of America, suffered a heart attack Friday afternoon and was taken to Riviera hospital.

The hospital reported yesterday that Clark's present condition is "satisfactory." He is resting and comfortable, the hospital said.

## City Schools Enroll 24,000

Nearly 24,000 students answered the call to return to classes in Torrance schools Thursday, with another 1000 expected to swell the rolls within the next few days.

Traditionally a number of students fail to show up the first day for various reasons—vacations, illness, or lack of knowledge about opening day. District operators answered several queries as to when school started for first classes actually had begun.

First day elementary enrollment totaled 19,165, while 4723 high schoolers showed up. Meadow Park showed the largest elementary enrollment, with 1018 students, while Wood was second with 902.

**North Largest School**  
North High welcomed 1835 students, while South had 1685 and Torrance High had 1203.

Elementary enrollment figures were as follows:

Anza, 764; Arlington, 655; Calle Mayor, 466; Carr, 841; Casimir, 592; Crenshaw, 633; Edison, 655; Fern-Greenwood, 856; Flavian, 785; Hamilton, 482; Hillside, 680; Jefferson, 572; Lincoln, 662; Madrona, 622; Magruder, 449; Meadow Park 1018; Newton, 755; Parkway, 675; Perry, 797; Riviera, 826; Sepulveda, 657; Steele, 897; Torrance Elementary, 813; Walteria, 650; Wood, 902; Yukon, 544.

## Band Solicitor Gets One Day in County Jail

A man who illegally solicited funds from Torrance merchants in the name of the Youth Band was sentenced to one day in the county jail Thursday.

Melford Gage, 34, 20837 Hall-dale, was convicted of one count of petty theft by Judge Otto B. Willett in South Bay Municipal Court.

The judge dismissed two other counts of theft brought by police officers.

Willett told Gage that he was sending him to the county jail for one day so that he would establish a record of a prior conviction.

"That way you won't be tempted to solicit checks in this manner in the future," he said.

**Repeat Is a Felony**  
Two such convictions of petty theft constitutes a felony.

Meanwhile, Lt. Lonnie Brown of the Torrance police department said that merchants are continuing to report past contributions to Gage in the name of the band.

"But Gage's attorney (Mazza) has indicated that money collected will be returned to the firms who contributed to the Youth Band," he said.

## Gas Explosion Burns Local Man

A South Bay workman was seriously burned in a gas explosion Friday at the Sun-Ray Estates housing project near Carson St. on Normandie Ave.

Howard L. Flesher, 40, 2143 Valley Dr., Manhattan Beach, suffered first degree burns about his face, arms, hands and upper chest in the mishap.

Police say the fire started when a gas line was broken by a ditch-digging machine which Flesher was operating.

The escaping gas was apparently ignited by a spark from the ignition of the ditch-digger.

Flesher was taken to Harbor General Hospital by his employer, Charles Chudy of Downey. He was later transferred to Riviera hospital in Torrance.

### FIREMEN HALT BLAZE

Torrance firemen put out an early-morning grass and brush fire yesterday on property owned by William R. Knight at 3324 W. 186th St.



HOTTER THAN BLAZES—When this man's too hot, it's really hot! Fireman Fred Bicker wipes his brow and tries to cool off as mercury skyrockets to century mark. Torrance sizzled in a recorded 100-degree temperature Friday. Rain Saturday morning cooled things off before it got hot again by noon.

## 2 Injured in Car Accident

Two people were injured in a pair of freak automobile accidents in Torrance Friday afternoon.

Maureen Frank, 18, an El Camino College student who lives at 18920 Doty, was taken to Centinella Valley hospital suffering from extreme shock and cuts after the car she was driving crashed into two other cars on 182 St. near Regatta.

The other automobiles damaged were driven by Miriam L. Moulton, 31, 26613 Shorewood Rd., Rolling Hills, who was making a left-hand turn, and Charles T. Smith, 16, a North High school student living at 17805 Florwood, who was stopped behind her.

In a second accident, Ruth N. Wilson, 38, 5517 Laurette, was injured when her car collided

with a beer truck driven by Louis D. Pelagou, 49, of Los Angeles on Hawthorne Blvd. near Garnet.

**Lomita Commander Returns from Duty**  
Cmr. Thomas R. Kincannon, 26006 Lucille Ave., Lomita, this week returned from 14 days annual training duty with the Navy, serving as commanding officer of a bomber squadron.

From Aug. 24 to Sept. 7, he flew anti-submarine patrols from the U.S. Naval Air Station in Los Alamitos.

Kincannon directed Patrol Squadron VP 772, a barrier patrol which flies far at sea under the direct command of a Navy fleet air wing.

## Shot Clinic Opens Tuesday to Slow Local Polio Increase

A sharp upswing in the polio cases in the South Bay area prompts the opening of two inexpensive local inoculation clinics this week.

Torrance residents were urged by county health officers to begin or complete their polio immunization series at the special \$1 vaccine clinics.

The Carl Steele School will open a clinic from 7 to 9 p.m. Tuesday at 19800 Inglewood Ave.

Both children and adults may attend.

The project is under the

chairmanship of Mrs. Mildred Jurko, and is sponsored by the Steele PTA and Torrance medical offices. Local doctors and nurses will donate their time.

Torrance residents may also use a second clinic which will be open today from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. in Wilmington.

Sponsored by the Red Cross and the Avalon Village Medical and Dental group, the clinic is located at 535 E. 231st St.

**Three Shots Needed**  
Mrs. Jurko pointed out that one or two shots of Salk vaccine do not provide adequate

polio protection.

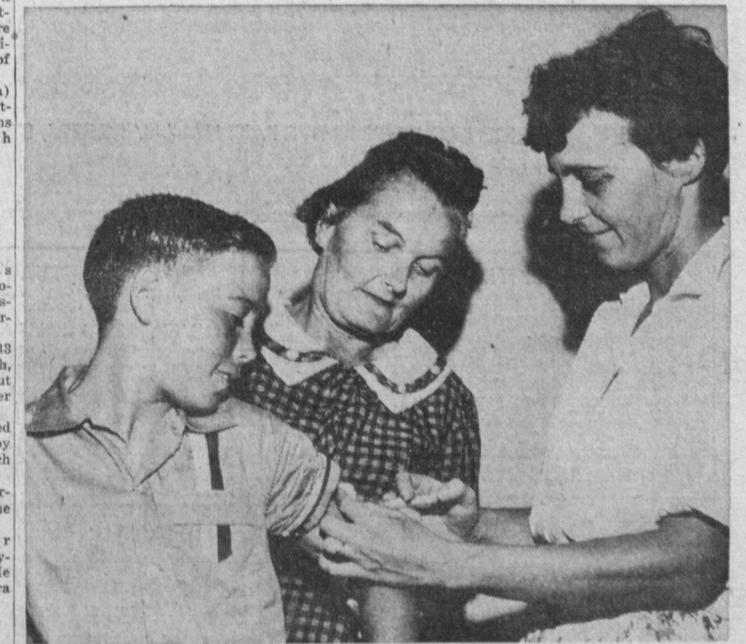
"This full series of three inoculations is required for complete immunization against paralytic polio," she said, "don't forget that third shot."

Some local doctors advise that residents who had a series of three shots two years ago take a fourth booster shot this week.

So far this year, the county has reported 96 cases of the disease as compared with only 27 during the same period in 1958.



QUEENS OF SONG—The football turf at North High School will ring to the light steps of these five vivacious song queens when the season gets under way next week. From left, Melodie Matheny, Nancy Taylor, Janet Tharp, Karen Peterson and Susie Hayes step out in march tempo as they get set to lead the North High fight song.



BRACING FOR THE BIG ONE—Clarence Madden, 12, gets ready for his third polio shot, the one which completes his immunization. Millie Jurko looks on as Mrs. Jerry Madden administers the inoculation. Both women are helping sponsor the shot clinic at Steele School Tuesday evening. —Press Photo