

Local Man Escapes Death in Auto Plunge Over Pt. Fermin Cliff

FELLOW LONGSHOREMAN IS KILLED IN CRASH YESTERDAY

Yesterday morning's dense fog that blanketed the entire Harbor district in "pea soup" enshrouding mist was blamed for the 120-foot plunge of a light truck over Point Fermin cliff at 5:15 a. m., that resulted in the death of Budd Rippe, longshoreman living at Harbor City, critical injuries to another man, and superficial bruises to Chris Jones, 50, of 2112 Carson street, Torrance.

Rippe, 27, was killed in the death plunge of the car. He lived at 1746 West 261st street, Harbor City, with his wife and small daughter. Critically injured with possible fractures of the vertebrae, skull fracture and brain concussion is Clarence Comer, 36, of San Pedro. Jones suffered wrist and shoulder injuries when the machine struck a mound and threw him to the ground.

Jones sounded the alarm that brought San Pedro officers to the scene. The officers, assisted by a fire truck and rescue squad, raised Comer from near the bottom of the cliff, where he had lodged in a mound of earth. As the truck fell, a fireman's escape bag and hauling gear was used in the rescue and in bringing Rippe's body to the top of the cliff.

Truck Out of Control

Comer was taken to L. A. General hospital. Rippe's body was sent to Cleveland funeral home. Driving through the dense fog, the three longshoremen were on their way to pick up a fourth worker, Joe Balboa, a resident of Point Fermin. Proceeding southward on Pacific, the little panel delivery truck struck the curb where Pacific curves into Paseo del Mar and traveled 110 feet to the end of the bluff, apparently out of control.

Jones said that when they came to the end of the street he believes Rippe's foot slipped from the brake onto the gas pedal and that the car plunging over the cliff.

Was On His Feet

Det. Lieut. G. W. Massey said he found Rippe's body, face down, a few feet from the machine. His coat was a short distance away, and further on were spots of blood that indicated he had been on his feet, removed his coat and then collapsed.

An autopsy surgeon's examination is scheduled for today with an inquest tentatively slated for Friday.

Aged Long Beach Man Hurt Here in Auto Accident

C. W. Bigwell, 74-year-old Long Beach resident, was badly injured yesterday afternoon when the car he was riding in, driven by his son, William Lloyd Bigwell, was struck by a truck driven by E. M. Cadwell of Los Angeles at Hawthorne boulevard and Spencer street. He was taken to Torrance Memorial hospital where his condition is described as only fair.

Truck driver Cadwell reported to police that he was following Bagwell and when the motorist made a signal to turn and pulled into the center of the road as if to make a left hand turn, he (Cadwell) went to pass on the right. Then Bigwell turned right and the collision occurred. Bigwell's car was turned over.



KELLOGG VISITS ARABIAN COLTS . . . W. K. Kellogg, millionaire breakfast food maker, visited the Kellogg Institute of Animal Husbandry at Pomona and posed with these rare colts—the only pure bred Arabian twin colts in America. Twin colts occur only about once in 10,000 foals. They were born a month ago.

Engineer Gives Financial Data On Alondra Park

The history of the acquisition of the 315-acre Alondra park for the southeasterly section of Los Angeles county is a public debt tragedy eclipsing anything in Los Angeles county, the board of supervisors was told yesterday by J. A. Bennell, research engineer.

Owners of the Mattoon Act bonds have received in the 12 years since the district was created a total of \$1,076,194, which is \$61,000 more than the total bond principal. Property owners have paid in \$607,194, equal to 57 percent, while gasoline tax money totaling \$468,000 equals 43 percent of the charges. And still \$569,000 is owing.

"The county should assume full responsibility for the remainder of this debt and immediately inform the bondholders of the status of the district and proceed to acquire the bonds," Bennell recommended. There has been a decrease of 52 percent in the assessed valuation of the 9,380 acres in the old Mattoon Act district since 1927.

Tax Strike Justified

"The property owners have contributed their full share for any benefits that might have accrued if the park had been developed as such," Bennell added. "But all we have now is 315 acres of adobe land, purchased for almost eight times its present assessed value, for which the owners of 18,496 parcels of property are paying a ransom for something that is as 'dead as a do-doe'."

"The bondholders have received their capital investment back already and any basis of argument on the remaining \$569,000 still outstanding would be added profit to the bondholders."

"Not one dollar more of county funds should be contributed to the interest and sinking of this or any other Mattoon Act district. And the property owners are fully justified in deducting the Mattoon Act levies from their tax bills," Bennell declared.

"Bad Advice" Proves Costly for Dairymen

Because he admittedly relied on statements of a lobbyist for the Milk Producers' Association and refused to take out a state license under the state agricultural code and put up a bond as required by law, Simon J. Schipper, well-known dairymen, 1808 Sepulveda, was haled into court here Tuesday morning.

He pleaded not guilty to infraction of the agricultural code, believing in statements contained in a letter from his association that the section pertaining to the license and bond was declared unconstitutional. However, the court received evidence from Wilson B. Woodruff, assistant chief of the division of market enforcement for the Department of Agriculture, that the license was valid.

Schipper, who has operated the Lomita Home Dairy for many years, was found guilty and fined \$100 or 50 days in jail, half of the fine being suspended providing that he takes out a state license. Judge Lessing commented that the Milk Producers' Association should reimburse Member Schipper for the "bad advice" he followed in refusing to abide by the state law.

Wright vs. Wright Case Dismissed; Lack of Evidence

When his brother, the complainant, failed to appear and give testimony, the case against Clifford Orville Wright, 35, of 1504 Madrid, was dismissed yesterday by City Judge Robert Lessing for lack of evidence. Wright was jailed Saturday when arrested on a warrant charging him with battery. The warrant was issued at the request of James Wright of Hawthorne.

The local man told Judge Lessing that the plaintiffs had cost him his job at the Columbia Steel plant. He pleaded not guilty when arraigned Monday and was released on his own recognizance pending the trial yesterday.

Clifford Wright told the court that the argument, with his brother developed out of trouble involving their respective children and because he, Clifford, had "turned James in" to the juvenile court authorities for allowing his sons to mistreat his (Clifford's) daughters.



Wear a Bit o' Green Tomorrow!

Believe it or not—St. Patrick—hivest rish his bones!—wasn't a son of the Old Sod tho he is th' patron saint of Ireland—they call it by its grand old name of Eire nowadays.

Gather 'round yer friend Mike (he with th' non-Gaelic last name) whilst he tells you about that great man who lived a thousand years ago but whose memory is as fresh in th' minds of all true Irishmen as th' shamrocks that dot that tight little island far across th' seas.

St. Patrick is generally believed to have first seen th' light o' day in Britain. Whin he was just a lad he was seized by an Irish pirate (oh, they had thim in th' old days just the same as they have today!) an' carried off as a prisoner.

For seven years he was a slave shepherd before he could escape and return home.

By th' time he had decided to convert th' wild Irish—well, that's what break th' heart of

a less stronger man. King Loagaine, wan of th' last of th' great Irish kings, was so taken by his sincerity that he granted St. Patrick permission to preach with niver a fear of annoyance and Irishmen were told to leave their shillaghs and brack-bats to home whin they came to church!

Well, converts to Christianity multiplied so fast that in seven years St. Patrick had three assistants and in 45 he laid th' cornerstone of th' Irish Metropolitan church at sunny Arragh. His work is without parallel . . . In 33 years he converted all Ireland and at th' sacrifice of hardly wan human life!

What about driving th' snakes out of th' Emerald Isle? Well, that is a lot of Barney, according to th' historians but maybe he did . . . Anyway, tomorrow's St. Patrick's Day and if ye've got th' tiniest drop of Irish in you, wear a bit o' green for old time's sake!

OIL MEN SEEK FRIENDLY SETTLEMENT OF DAMAGE CLAIM BROUGHT BY CITY

Four oil operators holding leases in the vicinity of Walnut and 227th answered summons to appear before City Judge Robert Lessing this morning and participate in a friendly settlement of \$400 damages to the street at that intersection.

The damages were caused by oil and water breaking out of a sump hole and being allowed to drain into the intersection, making that neighborhood "one of the worst eyesores in the district," according to Police Chief John Strohm.

Judge Lessing told operators, Harry Rilling, Lyle Garner of Garner and Johnson, Cecil Smith of the Vista Oil company and E. McCaslin of the McCaslin Oil company, that the city was determined to exact damages amounting to the cost of repairing the street. However, he advised the men to "get together" amicably with the city and pro-rate the cost without incurring further expense of a court trial.

Seek Contributions

Attorney John Shidler also attended the informal hearing on behalf of a client, Frank Smith, whose property at 237th and Walnut has been endangered by the flooding oil and water. Shidler said Smith did not seek damages but wanted assurance that no further flooding of his place would take place.

It was decided that the operators, who admitted partial responsibility, would attempt to obtain contributions to the damage fund from three others, Felix Mallon, Anderson and Cox, whom they contended were also responsible for the sump spillage, and report to the court here next Wednesday morning at 11 o'clock with the \$400 due the city.

If this payment is not made at that time, then the city will proceed with a legal action to obtain the settlement.

OIL ACTIVITIES SHOWS NO DECLINE IN AREA

Northeast of 240th and Eschelmann Symbol Oil is rigging up to drill a well. About 100 feet north of Ray Wilson's No. 3 well at 212nd and Walnut, Shadle Petroleum has erected rig for its No. 1 well. On 24th street between Walnut and Eschelmann Vista Petroleum is planning to start another well east of its recent completion.

Four Women Hurt In Auto Collision Here

Four women were slightly injured last night in an automobile collision at Cravens and Engracia avenue when their car, driven by Mrs. Dewey Olson of 16948 South Denker, was overturned after it was assertedly struck by a car driven by J. G. R. Davis of Hermosa Beach. The injured were given emergency treatment at Torrance Memorial hospital and then allowed to be taken to their homes.

They were: Dorothy Sundbury, 16628 Almsworth street; Doris Olson and Henrietta Olson, both of 16948 South Hobart street, both of Gardena, and Mrs. Fred Rippe of 12227 South Vermont, Los Angeles. Davis, according to a report filed with police by Mrs. Olson, admitted blame for the accident. Marks on the pavement showed he skidded about 33 feet while driving at a high rate of speed south on Cravens and street. Mrs. Olson's car was in the intersection, going west on Engracia.

CARS STRIPPED

Complaints were received by local police from Torrance Elementary school teachers yesterday afternoon that boys have been stripping the instructors' parked cars of plate frames, gas tank caps and mirrors. Police are conducting an investigation.

Sumet Oil's La Salle No. 1

Sumet Oil's La Salle No. 1, a gusher of 340th and Walnut streets has penetrated the oil sand to 521 feet, which is the deepest it has been penetrated in this part of the field. East of Walnut avenue Golden Seal Petroleum has staked location for another well. Their No. 1 well, located northwest of 242nd and Walnut streets, has encountered the oil zone and should be completed within a week.

SHOP TALK

by RAY BROOKS

PEOPLE & STUFF

Sam Rappaport . . . old time Torrance merchant . . . last week visiting the scene of his early activity . . . says that the women's house business (which he is in) is excellent, thanks to the mode for shorter skirts; but that the dress business has been hurt by the receding hem line.

Mary Lou Barnes . . . comely housewife and expert cartographer . . . argues with husband Hugh that Sartori Ave. lies parallel to Acadia and that Norman-de runs horizontally to Beech St. He not down-hearted Mary Lou. Counts millions before you have become twisted by the peculiarities of Torrance streets. "Torrance, The Planned City," planned to confuse & confound.

Charles Earl Comer . . . jocular, jovial, joyous postmaster . . . the only man in Torrance who wears (and looks well) in a Hom-burg hat.

William J. Lister . . . good natured steel worker and Ritz Cafe operator in his spare time . . . announcing that beginning Friday, March 17, he will have good old Rock Beer on tap at the Ritz.

Felix Larose . . . newcomer to Torrance . . . will open next week a first class fish & seafood market in the ex-real estate office on Cabrillo formerly occupied by B. C. Buxton. Larose will manage the place for owner John De Massa. Both Larose and De Massa stem from a long line of fishermen. Their fathers were in the fish business for years & years. Shop Talk welcomes this newest mercantile establishment to town, wishes Larose & De Massa much success.

Ed Wakely . . . last half of the auto electric firm of Gene & Ed . . . happy as a shark as he totaled up winnings at Santa Anita, found they added up to slightly less than Eight Hundred smack-aroos! Ed says he has a system that clicks, has the cash to prove it. In one race last week Ed has \$8 on a nag that romped home in front, paid off \$120.40 for a two buck ticket in good luck. Ed says W.H.M. Partner of the day Henry Grubb refused to take Ed's tip, swooned plumb away when the tote board flashed the pay-off.

Merle Bardwell . . . Buick salesman . . . back in Torrance selling Buicks & Pontiacs for Harry C. Clark. Merle can't seem to get away from Buick, has been connected with now-defunct Ed Lewis agency when Lewis operated an agency here; also with Prewett Motor Sales. When Prewett quit Merle went to another town, kept on selling Buicks. Now that another Buick agent has opened Merle is back again.

Earl Janda . . . Budget Man (he'll get all your budget if you'll let him) . . . is a photog in his spare time, even dabbles in motion picture producing, is sporting a brand new Studebaker coupe around this week, is liable to have another Budget Man down his throat if he doesn't watch out!

Richard Bruuswick . . . belligerent Bulova blacksmith at Howard's Jewelers . . . last week changed a \$75 clunker, his first; is this week learning how to drive his car, he hopes. He expects that the car has a good "know-moment"; Richard has so far avoided running it off a dock into San Pedro harbor or wrapping it around a telephone pole.

Harvel Guttenfeller . . . prop. of Harvel's Service Station . . . mad as a hatter one day, m. last week with the Famous Players Shop's "Big" Bill (not to be confused with "Little" Bill) routed him from bed to obtain keys to open the Chill Shop . . . (thru rear entrance) . . . as he, Bill, had misplaced his. All this when Harv had tumbled into bed but a few short hours before!

TO CHURCH DUTY

An obligatory duty of all De Molays—that of attending church in a body—will be performed by the Torrance chapter next Sunday. The chapter is scheduled for service in the First Baptist church.

Hospital Ball Nets \$609 Here

A final check-up of receipts and disbursements for the annual Torrance Memorial Hospital Ball, held at the Civic Auditorium Feb. 18, revealed this week that the total receipts amounted to \$745 and the net proceeds to the hospital was \$609.

This was the largest amount received by the hospital from the ball in recent years.

Big Steel Sees Business Improvement

(Continued from Page 1-A) referred to. This represents a tonnage shrinkage for 1938 of nearly 52 percent.

"In many respects the year in the steel industry was one involving difficult and uncertain business problems," the report states. "Decisions of importance were necessary concerning questions of policy and management in keeping with industry's relations to public and social responsibility. The influence of these growing public responsibilities extends more and more into nearly every phase of business activity, and the resulting additional expense thereby incurred has constituted an unavoidable cost burden which industry has had to absorb."

"If allowances are made for the expense caused by these changing conditions, and for the severity of the depression in 1935, the steel industry suffered during the greater part of 1938, the net loss for the year of \$7,717,454 is less than might reasonably have been expected." Under the heading of "Taxes," the annual report states, in part: "All classes of taxes have continued at a high level. While the total amount of the 1938 tax bill of the Corporation and its subsidiary companies falls considerably under that of 1937, it is due mainly to the 1938 reduced volume of business transacted and not to any change in the rates which income and profits taxes are levied. Notwithstanding these lower aggregate tax charges in 1938, they constitute a somewhat greater burden per unit of output and gross income than was the case in 1937."

Total taxes paid by the Corporation, according to its report were: For 1938, \$48,945,131; and for 1937, \$85,048,237.

The year 1938 reflected the continuance of satisfactory employer-employee relations. President Stettinius states, "Management readily entered into discussion and negotiation of management-employee problems, and continued attention was devoted to the application of those fundamental policies and practices which are calculated to maintain a satisfactory standard of employee relations."

"Important questions having to do with wages, hours and conditions of employment were satisfactorily adjusted through discussion with employees, or their designated representatives. Expiring agreements with labor organizations were renewed, and new agreements were entered into in conformity with the collective bargaining policy of the subsidiary companies of the Corporation."

Public Bid to Eastern Star Luncheon

The public is invited to a luncheon to be given under the auspices of the Eastern Star at Torrance Masonic hall, Monday night, March 20. The regular monthly business meeting of the Eastern Star will be held following the luncheon in the afternoon.

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