

Blast Threat Averted As Oil Spews From Huge Tank

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Council Signs New Fire Fighters Alerted; Cops Block Roads

Bus Depot Deal

New Depot Opens In 90 Days

Charlie Gotts, owner of Daniels Cafe, was awarded a contract Tuesday night by the City Council to operate a bus depot for the Torrance Municipal Bus Lines at his cafe at 1825 Cabrillo avenue.

Two other prospective bus depot operators, Herb Allen and James Baudin did not submit bids. Allen who once offered the west half of his building at 1413 Cravens avenue declined to bid for the franchise stating that the one year term of the contract offered was too short a period to make the deal attractive.

A spokesman for Baudin stated that the owner of the Drive-In Restaurant at 1311 Cabrillo avenue considered the terms of the contract too severe.

L. L. Prince, owner of the Beacon Drug store at Gramercy and Cabrillo avenues and who holds the present franchise, tendered his bid verbally. He offered the same service now given in exchange for 10 per cent of the ticket sales.

Gotts' bid stated that the depot would be ready in 90 days. He plans to remodel his present restaurant, install rest rooms, and provide a paved off-the-street loading zone on the lot south of his cafe.

24 Tanks At Union Farm Threatened

By GEORGE BARKER

The fate of scores of lives and millions of dollars in property hung in perilous balance for three tense hours late yesterday afternoon when oil, surging through leaks in a 90,000 gallon storage tank here threatened violent explosion.

The leak, which was first discovered shortly after noon by workers on the Union Oil Company tank farm, Lomita boulevard west of Pennsylvania avenue, brought the Torrance Fire Company to the scene and alerted a dozen other Bay region fire fighting outfits.

Among the first to reach the scene was Capt. J. J. Bonnera Torrance company, who stood by until 5 p.m. when company workers declared that the emergency was over.

During that period, volumes of oil and highly volatile gases, which firemen feared would erupt at any moment, spewed from a broken seam in the mammoth silver tank.

While workmen worked feverishly to stem the flow of crude oil near the base of the huge basin, Torrance police patrol cars halted traffic on Lomita boulevard, between Hawthorne and Pennsylvania avenues.

The possibility of explosion was doubly foreboding because of the proximity of some 27 other above-ground oil storage tanks. Firemen conjectured that if one tank blew, the explosion of the remainder would be likely.

Company workers completed the transfer of oil from the damaged tank to other containers by about five p.m. It was reported.

Cause of the leak and the amount of money lost in oil which flooded the ground near the tank, could not be estimated by the Torrance Fire Chief, J. E. McMaster.

"It certainly was considerable," he said.



EASY TO LOOK AT . . . The postman is sure to ring twice at 1847 Marinette street because Mrs. Marjorie Welch has followed a suggestion from the postmaster to make certain house numbers may be seen easily by temporary carriers during the Christmas season mail rush. Suggestion has year-around merit. —Herald photo.



DEAN L. SEARS
Chamber President

Directors Name Sears to Head CofC in 1950

Dean L. Sears, manager of the Torrance Branch of the Bank of America, was elected president of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce at a meeting of the board of directors Monday morning.

W. T. "Hap" Tillotson was elected vice president. Other officers include Reed H. Parkin, vice-president and William A. Zoeller, treasurer.

Appointed for a term of three years to fill board vacancies were C. T. Rippy and William A. Zoeller.

Staff members re-engaged were Blaine Walker, executive secretary, and Bertha F. Hedberg, assistant secretary.

The entire new board consists of Sears, Tillotson, Parkin, Zoeller, Rippy, Bob L. Haggard, Charles Ver Jones, Henry W. Creeger and Grover Whyte.

Sears officially will take office January 1. He will succeed Charles Ver Jones, incumbent president, at installation rites to be held in mid-January at the annual Chamber of Commerce banquet.

Santa's Agents Get Boost From Merchants Here

For the host of parents who annually serve as Old Saint Nick's purchasing agents, Paul Diamond of the Retail Division, Torrance Chamber of Commerce, had an encouraging word.

Santa's Helpers Need Help, Too

Acting-postmaster Louis H. DeJinger has a couple of remedies other than aspirin that will prevent many headaches this Yule season—especially among postmen.

"House numbers, or rather the lack of them, give our employees the biggest headache," Dr. DeJinger diagnoses.

"If householders would install numbers where none are provided, trim back bushes which hide numbers, paint numbers a contrasting color from the paint on the house, and locate the numbers where they can be seen from the street and not up under the eaves, our temporary postal employees will have clear sailing."

"As an aid to emergency carriers unfamiliar with the routes it would certainly be of help if persons with postboxes would paint legibly their names and route numbers on their boxes."

"Beginning this Saturday the post office goes on a holiday schedule, maintaining hours from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Also this Saturday we open a drive-in and walk-in annex in the old Torrance Herald building at 1386

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3000 Kids Jam City To Greet Santa Claus

Santa Claus, the famous red-coated gift-bearing man from the north, proved his popularity with kids was far from on the wane as crowds of unexpected and almost unmanageable proportions packed the streets during his two appearances here Saturday.

A crowd estimated at 3000 kids and adults greeted Santa Claus at noon when he dropped from a helicopter into a parking lot on Sartori avenue across the street from the Pay-Less Drug

Store—sponsors of his mid-day appearance.

During the evening show at the lighting ceremonies in El Prado park, a similar crowd of kids eager to receive a candy cane from the white-bearded gentleman swarmed over streets, trailers, and barriers in an attempt to reach Santa Claus.

The event, sponsored by the Junior Chamber of Commerce in cooperation with the Retail Merchants Division of the Chamber of Commerce, far exceeded all expectations of the sponsoring organizations, leaders said.

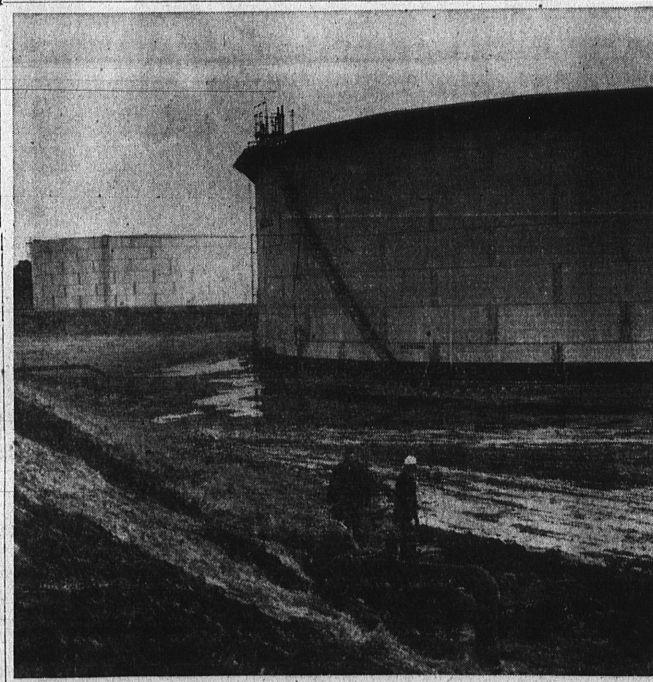
Chief of Police John Stroth, with nearly a quarter of cen-

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'Missing' Child Found in Closet

Local police Monday morning were told they could abandon a city-wide hunt when three-year-old Barbara Jean Evans, the object of their search, turned up in the family closet in her home at 1507 Sharynne Lane.

She had been playing "hide and go seek" her mother indicated.



SCENE OF CRISIS . . . Almost placid looking but loaded with terrible potential is the oil tank (above) which yesterday gave way and sent hundreds of gallons of oil and water onto the surrounding terrain.



STILL POPULAR . . . Proof that Santa's following has not diminished is demonstrated in this photo taken moments after St. Nick stepped from a helicopter in downtown Torrance last

Saturday. Policeman (white circle) is escorting Santa through the crowd of eager youngsters and parents. —Herald photo.

TODAY'S WEATHER

Cloudy with light to moderate rain mainly during the morning hours. Slightly cooler with temperature high at about 58 degrees.

Report BB Vandals

D. W. Quigley at 1606 Crenshaw boulevard, and Wayland Harrison of 1610 Beech avenue, told police yesterday that a group of boys riding in a large dark sedan has been shooting BB's through windows in the neighborhood.

Lt. Gov. Knight Urges Anti-Red Counter Action in Speech Here

Calling for counter action from the members of Kiwanis to stop the collective mold that is forming in the nation's government, Lt. Gov. Goodwin Knight addressed nearly 100 members of the Torrance Kiwanis Club and their guests Monday night.

Speaking from the American Legion house the candidate for the governorship of California stated that there could be no compromise in the fight to make it "fun to live in America."

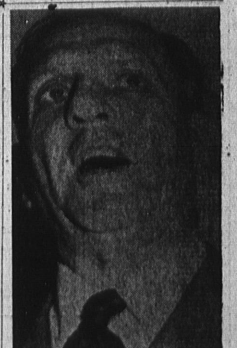
He labeled the efforts to socialize medicine as a cornerstone to communism.

"If the Commies are successful in socializing doctors it will only be a matter of time until they socialize merchants, publishers, and lawyers."

"The fight we face with communists is a struggle for men's minds. They will pit religion against religion, worker against employer, the poor against the rich," the state official said.

The visiting speaker was introduced by Edwin B. Brown, program chairman.

Dr. Howard A. Wood, president of the local club, presided, and introduced Harold Chaney, Lt. Governor-elect of the newly formed 19th Division of the California-Nevada District.



LT. GOV. GOODWIN KNIGHT . . . There Can Be No Compromise