

# FBI NABS TORRANCE PROF

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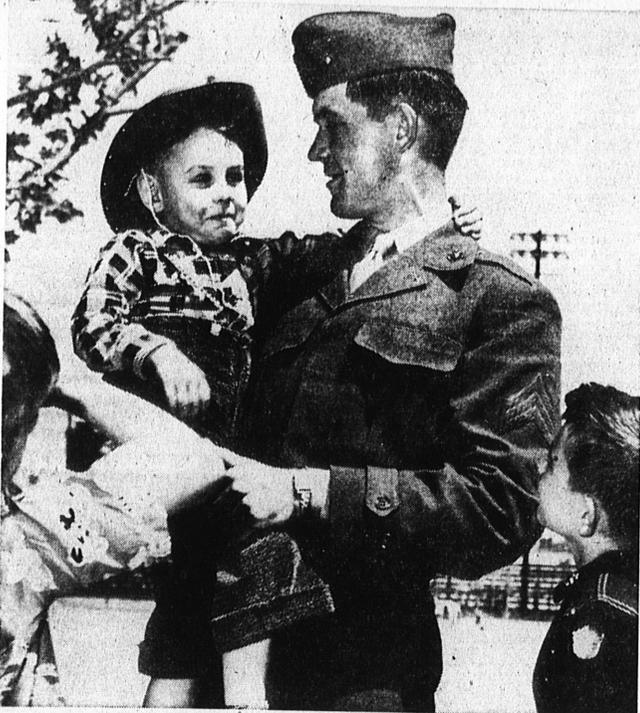


## TORRANCE HERALD

37th YEAR—No. 17

TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, MAY 3, 1951

20 PAGES



**PROUD BROTHER . . .** Five-year old Dean Russell was the hero at Torrance Elementary School yesterday, not big brother Sgt. Tom Russell, a recent returnee from the Korean front, who dropped in to visit his younger brother at the local school. The Marine sergeant was among the 1300 Marines who returned to San Diego last Sunday. (Herald photo).

### 'Sure Good to Be Back' Says Marine War Vet

Leatherneck Sgt. Tom Russell shared the opinion of 1300 other Marines who returned to San Diego last Sunday from the Korean war zone and was quick to express his views: "It's sure good to be back!"

The 24-year old veteran of 10 months fighting in Korea, including the amphibious landing at Inchon lives with his stepmother, Mrs. Theresa Russell at 1319 Crenshaw boulevard.

The ex-Torrance High School student served as a crew chief on an amphibious tractor. He left last July with the First Amphibious Company of the First Provisional Brigade.

Sgt. Russell earned a Bronze Star for his actions at Iwo Jima during the landing on the island in World War II. He took three bullets in the chest during the engagement but "I was just lucky in Korea I guess." He "pooh-poohs" a broken hand he incurred while mending his amtrac.

Proudest of his war record is Sgt. Russell's five-year old brother, Dean, who was quick to recount the Marine's adventures to his classmates at Torrance Elementary School. Russell was in the crossing of the Han River, the retaking of Seoul, and the evacuation of troops from the Chosen Reservoir.

Russell's father, Tom Russell, a construction worker, lives at the Plaza Hotel. The Marine has a step sister living at the Crenshaw address and a brother, Kenny, who was a Marine during the last war, living in Lakewood.

### Schools Reveal Round-Up Dates For Physicals

Dates for the "Spring Round-up" of tots who will be entering kindergarten in Torrance schools next fall were announced this week by school officials.

Mothers of youngsters who will enter school in September were asked to phone the appropriate school for an appointment on the dates indicated.

Unnecessary waiting will be avoided by parents if an appointment is made for the physical examination by the district physician.

Purpose of the annual round-up is three-fold according to Warren Hamilton, district attendance officer: 1) The round-up will alert the schools for what to prepare for in the fall; 2) To allow teachers and parents to meet; and 3) To give physical examinations to all incoming students.

With the present enrollment in excess of 4532 students in the district, local school officials expect the enrollment to crack the 5000 mark the first week of school.

The following is a schedule of the round-up times in the various elementary schools for the month: Hours will be from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

May 7, Perry; May 8, Seaside; May 9, Walteria; May 14, 15, 16, Torrance; May 21, 22, 23, North Torrance; May 29, Perry.

### PAIR HURT AS TREE HITS CAR

Other than a tree falling on a San Pedro couple's car little damage of a serious nature was reported during last week-end's wind storm, police and fire reports indicated.

A number of trees and tree branches were blown down by the high velocity winds and a few street lights crashed but no fires or other serious damage was reported.

Treated for a hump on the head were Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Shackelford after a falling tree landed atop their 1951 Pontiac sedan denting the roof and breaking some of the auto's windows. The mishap occurred in the 16900 block on Arlington avenue last Sunday afternoon at 4:21 p.m.

80c SALE COSTS \$182

While she was showing one "customer" some lumber stock in the yard, another "customer" rifled her purse of \$182 about to be deposited in the bank. Mrs. Rosella Studer, lumber yard operator, told Torrance Police this week.

### Merchant Tells Humor, Tragedy of Early Days

"Thirty-two years ago," Sam Levy, prominent Torrance merchant, told the Kiwanis Club Monday night, "the Pacific Electric depot was a wonderful spot to get a beautiful view of the city—from there you could see both buildings."

Sam (he came here 32 years ago) dipped into the history to give the younger service club members some of the humor and tragedy of the past and to bring back a few nostalgic memories for some of the "old timers"—the latter of which are mostly in the Rotary Club. Sam pointed out:

He recalled the early days in Torrance when Indians were imported from Arizona and New Mexico to work on the open hearths at Columbia Steel because it was felt that a white man could not take the heat.

"Those Indians were a patriotic lot. This week they would be Mrs. Grover Cleveland. They would remain Mrs. Cleveland until the charge accounts got pretty high. Suddenly they became Mrs. George Washington," the early comer to Torrance recalled.

Fire fighting in those days was something to behold. Our equipment consisted of a hand-worn two-wheel hose cart.

\$55' back in 1919.

Three cities are laid out exactly like Torrance. The other two are Washington, D.C. and Boulder City, Nevada. Torrance High School is located in the same spot in relation to the rest of the city as is the Nation's capital to Washington."

"The old American Legion clubhouse was sold to the Ku Klux Klan. The KKK had about 800 members then."

"Some of the main streets in Torrance—Sartori, Cravens, Carson, and Torrance boulevard were named after bankers who invested in the development of Torrance which started out as a plot of 2400 acres back in 1911."

Levy paid high tribute to many early settlers and many early civic leaders including Sam Rappaport who had the first general store in Torrance; George Probert, the first movies; Judge George Post, founder of the Torrance National Bank; Bob Deinger, the city's first clerk; Dick Felker, who built a million dollar business out of a hobby of cutting stones from Redondo Beach; City Clerk A. H. Bartlett, who has been held in office for 29 years; George Proctor, founder of the Chamber of Commerce and who stopped the annexation of Torrance by the City of Los Angeles; "Honest John" Dennis, twice mayor of Torrance who was defeated at the polls and later died of a broken heart; Dr. George Shidder, two-time president of the Rotary Club during the depression days; and to Dr. Jess Lancaster who treated the sick, night and day, during the bleak days of '29 without pay or hope of remuneration.

"Dr. Lancaster deserves a front seat in the first row in heaven for what he did for the early residents of this city," Levy said.

He also praised Police Chief John Stroh for maintaining a clean town.

"It's a town we can be proud to live in," he said in closing.

Hank Ulbricht, former rubber salesman and now-owner of the Automatic Printing Company, introduced Levy.

### Ex-Vet Official Raps Army on Guard Call-up

Charges that local men who are physically unfit for military duty were sent overseas with the National Guard have been made by a former Veterans of Foreign Wars official now stationed in Japan with the 578th Engineer Battalion.

In a communication which he said was sent to various VFW posts in this area, the veterans' organization official, a non-commissioned officer who shall remain anonymous for obvious reasons, claims that "men who were disqualified by examining physicians were ordered to duty by military authorities."

"Selections who had the same defects and who were examined at the same moment, were given 4-F classification," it is charged.

The National Guard unit, composed of men from Lomita, Torrance, Harbor City, Walteria, and other nearby communities, was sent overseas to Japan for "occupation duty" several weeks ago.

The document, which is accompanied by eight alleged "hardship cases," is scheduled for consideration by the Lomita VFW post at their next meeting, officials stated.

"Eight 'general points' are outlined by the writer in a list of grievances that he asks the VFW post to correct as follows:

1) Men whose dependent status had changed since their enlistment with the National Guard were not given an opportunity to appeal or present their case upon activation notwithstanding conditions at that time.

2) Preactivation physical examination was a "complete farce."

3) National Guardsmen who are veterans of the last war are given little or no choice of duty even though there are

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### Grand Jury Indicts Instructor

Arrested yesterday on perjury charges was Clarence Howard Vetterli, journalism instructor at El Camino College, who was placed in custody by the U. S. Marshal under \$10,000 bail.

According to R. B. Hood, special agent of the Los Angeles office of the FBI, Vetterli was indicted early Wednesday by the Federal Grand Jury for alleged false statements he made before the grand jury on May 25, 1949.

In a release handed to news-men yesterday, the FBI agent said that Vetterli testified that he had never furnished money to anyone to go to Japan for any purpose. He also denied that in 1941 he had been advised that Ignacy Witczak was

an agent of the Communist International. Evidence presented to the grand jury now in session resulted in the indictment of Vetterli. He is charged with falsifying these matters when he testified before the previous grand jury.

Ferrest G. Murdock, president of El Camino College, stated: "The whole matter came as a great shock and surprise to me."

Witczak, later identified as a Soviet espionage agent by Igorvitch-Gouzenko, code clerk in the Soviet Embassy in Ottawa, Canada, disappeared from Los Angeles on November 21, 1945 while employed at USC as a

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KENNETH E. BRADLEY . . . Heart Victim

### Death Takes Employment Supervisor

Two hours after he left his office here saying he wasn't feeling well, Kenneth E. Bradley, placement supervisor of the local State Employment Service, died in the office of an Inglewood physician Tuesday.

A former manager of the Torrance and Compton offices of the California State Employment Service, Bradley had returned to Torrance several months ago at his own request to act as placement supervisor. He was the manager here from September 15, 1947, until July 1, 1947, at which time he was transferred to the Compton office as manager.

He was later transferred to Inglewood, where he had his home at 3323 West 84th street. Bradley was active in civic affairs here during his four years as manager of the local CSES. He was a director of the Torrance Lions Club during that time.

He leaves his widow and a daughter living in Inglewood. A son was flying here from Texas yesterday for the final services. Hardin and Flanagan Mortuary of Inglewood is handling funeral arrangements.

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### Couple Found Dead in Home

Six deaths, one a suicide, blackened the week's news in Torrance during the past seven days.

None was the result of auto accidents. Among the causes of death were two, a man and wife, by asphyxiation, a drowning, a trailer fire, a baby scalded to death, and a suicide by auto exhaust fumes.

Found early Thursday morning sitting in the living room of their home were Mr. and Mrs. William Francis Shields of 2004 Gramery avenue. The couple were the victims of asphyxiation, police said when a gas heater apparently consumed all the oxygen in the air in their tightly closed front room.

Washed ashore at the Torrance Beach Monday morning was the body of 42-year old Frank Wilbur Usher, who was swept off the fishing barge, "Retriever," during Sunday's high winds.

Wednesday night Torrance police discovered the body of John Lewis Guthrie, 32, of Hermosa Beach. A hose led from the auto parked atop Torrance Beach. A hose led from the exhaust to the cab.

Reported last Thursday also was the death of a three-year old tot who fell into a bucket of scalding water at the home of her uncle, Edward Parano, 4280 West 132nd street. The child, Maria Rebecca, 3, fell into the water her mother had headed to give the child a bath. The accident happened April 1. She died in the Harbor General Hospital April 26.

**FIRE TAKES YOUTH**  
Fire claimed the life of a 17-year old farm hand Thursday morning as flames destroyed the trailer home of Benjamin Hernandez at 1840 West 178th street. Sheriff's Arson Squad investigators reasoned the youth died from fumes and a fire which started from a cigarette the youth was smoking before falling asleep.

Held Monday at Stone and Myers Chapel were last rites for Mr. and Mrs. Shields. Mrs. Shields, the former Mrs. Dolley, whose first husband and son operated one of the first drug stores in Torrance. She was 87 years of age. She had lived in Torrance for the past 38 years. Interment in Roosevelt Cemetery followed the dual rites conducted here by Rev. C. M. Northrup, of the First Baptist Church. She was survived by her son, Harry Dolley, of Los Angeles, now recuperating from a recent auto accident; and a daughter, Mrs. Dorothy Harder of Napa, California.

**LONG TIME RESIDENT**  
Mr. Shields, 76 years of age, had been a resident of Torrance for 17 years. His body was shipped to Dunbar, California. He is survived by two sons, Gerald of King City, and Harold H. of San Francisco.

Guthrie's remains were shipped to Brownwood, Texas, home town of the 15-year veteran of Air Force service. Stone and Myers Funeral Chapel made the arrangements.

Scheduled for 10 a.m. this morning were funeral arrangements to be conducted by Shurey and Myers in Redondo Beach for the victim of Sunday's wind storm—"Bud" Usher. He either was swept or jumped into the raging sea last Sunday when the fishing barge of which he was a crew member started breaking up a short distance off shore. A Coast Guard cutter had to turn back because of the high seas.



**THREAT HURLED . . .** All Ben Mustapha, chief of police, pulls his sword and vows death to the villain in the "Belle of Bagdad," an operetta being presented tomorrow night at the High School auditorium. Listening intently to the chief, played by Leonard Reid, are (left to right), Beryl Jones, Lola Bellwood, Colleen Mooney, and Marca Wright. (Herald photo).