

# New \$2 Million Industry Planned

## Schools Brace for Record Enrollment

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SCENE OF NEAR TRAGEDY . . . William Sorkness shows his two-year-old son, Brent, an oil sump into which he fell last Sunday evening and nearly drowned before his cries were heard as he sunk into the thick tar. (Herald photo).

## Murder Mystery Develops After Bullet Riddled Bedding Found

### Lad's Cry Brings Dad To Rescue

Blond-headed, two-year-old Brent Sorkness missed drowning in a tar sump Sunday by a matter of seconds.

He was pulled to safety by his father, William Sorkness, 2017 West 233rd street, who heard him cry out as the boy's face started to sink beneath the surface of a small tar pit near 233rd street and Eshelman avenue.

The tot was taken by Figueroa and Miller ambulance to the Harbor General Hospital where attendants treated the small lad and removed his tarry robe. Much of the boy's hair had to be clipped. He was released Monday morning after spending a restless night at the hospital.

George Powell, assistant director of the city's civil defense program, reported that the owners of the property were unaware of the sump, but were taking steps to have the pit filled at once.

The small lad apparently became ensnared in the pit when he strolled across the surface, which was camouflaged by a thin layer of dust and leaves. When his father, a Union Oil Company employee, found him only half of his face was above the surface.



MURDER? . . . Detective Sergeant Percy Bennett (left) and Torrance Police Chief John Stroth examine bullet holes and large fresh blood stains on bedding found yesterday afternoon near the Torrance-Palos Verdes boundary. Mattress was apparently ripped open to recover bullets fired into the bedding. (Herald photo).

### Chemists Start Probe Of Blood Stained Bed

Bedding, bloody and bullet-riddled, and definitely smacking of homicide was discovered yesterday afternoon in the hills near the Torrance-Palos Verdes boundary. Police Chief John Stroth immediately summoned chemists from the sheriff's crime laboratory to start probing the blood stained sheets, pillow cases and ripped mattress.

Detective Sergeant Percy Bennett of the Torrance Police Department said two holes which he believes definitely to be bullet holes were found in the sheet and mattress. The mattress had an 18-inch triangular gash apparently made by someone attempting to recover the slugs which had been fired into the bedding.

**FRESH STAINS**  
"The stains are not older than 36 to 48 hours," Chief Stroth said.

The grim discovery was made by Ruby Malone, 109 17th avenue, Los Angeles, who reported her findings to the Palos Verdes Police Department. They in turn discovered the bloody bedding to have been ditched on the Torrance side of the line in a grove of trees in Hollywood Riviera.

An all-points teletype for any information regarding the mysterious findings was sent out immediately by the local police department.

**NO MARKS FOUND**  
No laundry marks were visible indicating the bedding may have come from a private home and not from a motel or other lodging place using commercial laundries.

Asked if they had any theories on the case, both Chief Stroth and Bennett indicated they had some "definite ideas," but declined to discuss them for fear of putting the investigation in jeopardy.

### Woman Falls Leaving City Bus at Terminal

Rushed to Harbor General Hospital last evening was a 70-year-old Los Angeles woman who fell while alighting from a Torrance bus at the Bus Depot on Cabrillo. Bus driver L. L. Crowther said Mrs. John Beck, who lives at 1107 North Avenue 51, appeared to fall when her "leg gave away" as she started to leave the bus. No report of her injuries was available at press time last night.

### United Rubber Buys 16-Acre Industrial Site

Plans for the erection of a new multi-million dollar manufacturing plant here were disclosed this week with the announcement by Henry W. Creger, president of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce, that the United Rubber Corporation had acquired approximately 16 acres at the intersection of Arlington avenue and Dominguez street.

Although company officials were reluctant to discuss plans for the new plant, it has been reported in trade circles that the new industry would specialize in the production of latex and would represent an investment in excess of \$2,000,000.

The company's expansion program is being planned in close cooperation with the National Production Authority and other federal agencies.

Purchase of the 16-acre industrial site was made by direct negotiation with Edward W. Christiansen, president of the Magnesium Corporation of America, in Chicago, Creger reported. The United Rubber Corporation is headed by Nathan Kaplan, president; Sam Kaplan, vice-president; and Paul A. Faber, secretary-treasurer.

The company decided to purchase the Torrance site on the basis of information supplied by Blaine Walker, executive secretary of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce. It was learned. The site adjoins the Pacific Electric Railway shops on Dominguez street and the American Rock Wool plant on Arlington avenue.

### French Attache Given Key to City By Mayor

"How clean your town is and your lawns. . ." Thus did Pierre L. Massin, an attaché of the French Embassy in New York, comment on the City of Torrance at brief ceremonies Tuesday during which the French official and his pretty wife were presented a key to the city by Mayor Bob L. Haggard.

Having passed through many eastern towns on their way to the Pacific Coast, Monsieur Massin and his wife were impressed with number of freshly painted houses in Torrance as compared to what they saw in many parts of the east.

The Massins and their four-year-old son are the guests of Mr. and Mrs. B. T. Whitney whom the French couple met in China while Mr. Whitney was attached to the U. S. intelligence office during World War II.

### Schools To Open To 6000

With the crest of the flood of local school children due to hit Monday morning, local school officials are literally "crossing their fingers" hoping the present buildings will be able to hold them all without forcing many more double sessions.

It is already known that the spillover will cause some double sessions. The final decision as to how many other double sessions will be required can only be made after the registration of students is completed on Monday. Dr. J. H. Hull, superintendent of schools, said yesterday.

#### REGISTER NEW PUPILS

Warren Hamilton, attendance supervisor, asked all parents of students who have never attended Torrance schools before to register their children today and tomorrow. Kindergarten students must be four years of age prior to March 1, 1951 to be eligible to enroll in kindergarten. New first grade students must be five years of age prior to that date to enroll. A new law raising this age will not go into effect until after school has opened.

Parents of new students may obtain additional information about attendance zones by phoning Hamilton, at the Board of Education offices, Torrance 2111.

In the Torrance system three new schools will be receiving pupils. To be open are the new Greenwood school which will house students in the 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th grades, the El Nido Bungalow elementary school and the Bungalow school at Crenshaw north of 190th street.

#### RECORD EXPECTED

Mrs. Armand Bonwell, principal of the Halldale school in the Shoreline strip, is expecting a record enrollment of 800 students. Two classes, A1 and B2 will be on double sessions, she reports.

At Torrance High School Principal John Steinbaugh is expecting a record enrollment to approach the 1000 mark. Last year the enrollment was 880 pupils. School officials expect the "war bulge" to hit the high school level this year and are anticipating a high enrollment in the freshman class. Three new teachers

### 'The Baron' Set To Visit Kiwanis Kid's Day Feed

Wrestling's Black Knight, Baron Leone, will be on hand to greet all who attend the Kiwanis Club's Kid's Day Breakfast from 9:30 to 11 a.m. on September 22 in the Torrance Civic Auditorium.

"Is'a cuma one, isa cuma all. Non a break a da back," the bad man of the ring invited.

The long-haired villain will pass out his vitamin-packed lolly pops to the kids who attend the charity affair.

#### MENU ANNOUNCED

Breakfast consisting of orange juice, flapjacks, bacon, syrup, butter and coffee will be served starting at 6:30 a.m. and continuing to 11 a.m.

Price of the feed is 50 cents per person. Tickets may be purchased wherever the familiar blue "K" emblem of the Kiwanis Club is displayed, or at the door on September 22.

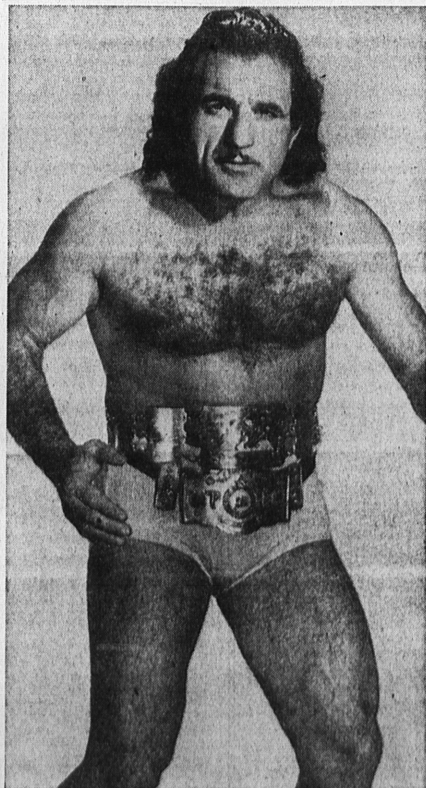
At 2 p.m. Sepulveda boulevard on the hill west of Hawthorne boulevard will be blocked off for the running of a local Soap Box Derby under the direction of Paul Loraner, local Chevrolet dealer. The boys who raced in the recent Chevrolet Derby and any other boys with self-built racers will compete for a trophy put up by the Torrance Herald. Heat winners also will receive trophies.

#### FOR KIDS

All proceeds from the breakfast will go into the Kiwanis Club's youth program fund and will enable the local service club to pick up the transportation "check" for the 3341 round trip tickets to Alondra Park Swimming Pool this summer. The local Kiwanis Club under the chairmanship of Dr. Howard A. Wood transported 650 kids to the nearby pool in a program aimed at teaching local kids how to swim. The program also was sponsored by the Torrance Recreation Department.

Last year many local kids took advantage of the program, but financed the bus fare, \$2.85, out of their own pockets. The Kiwanis Club hopes that the breakfast also will provide the funds to help defray the cost of the learn-to-swim program next year.

"We are putting no limit on the number of breakfasts a per-



BARON LEONE

. . . To Flex Muscles for Kids

### Driver in Train Wreck Arrested

To be sentenced October 2 on a drunk driving charge is Marvin Jones, 30, of Harbor City, driver of an auto which crashed into the side of a Santa Fe train Saturday evening at the Western avenue crossing near Sepulveda boulevard.

Although no one was seriously injured in the crash the heavy Saturday traffic was backed up on either side of the crossing. Newton Jones, who gave his address as 3455 Emerald street, was placed on a stretcher and hoisted between the coupled tank cars of the train to Figueroa and Miller's ambulance. Attendants at the Harbor General Hospital treated him for a bump on the forehead and a wrenched shoulder.

Also in the car was Eldon Barnes, 37, of the Emerald street address who was the legal and registered owner of the car. He was uninjured.

The driver, on probation of a drunk driving charge on which he paid a fine three months ago, pleaded guilty to the new charge and will receive his sentence in San Pedro on October 2. He is also on probation resulting from a fight in Bakersfield recently, according to the Los Angeles Police records.

### Auto-Pedestrian Crash Slightly Injures Man

Treated for slight injuries at Harbor General Hospital Monday evening was 47-year-old Edward B. McGarry, of 1531 West 215th street, who was knocked to the pavement by an auto at Carson street and Western avenue.

### Crenshaw to Be Closed During Widening, Paving

To be closed to through traffic for the next 10 days to two weeks is a portion of Crenshaw boulevard from 174th street to 190th street, according to Jacob Joseph, city engineer.

The highway is to be widened from its present 22-foot width to 44 feet, states John Patrick, assistant city engineer.

The \$29,000 contract, financed through Gas Tax Funds, was awarded to the Ken Jones Contracting Company.

To remain open during the paving operations is 182nd street.



PARISIAN VISITORS . . . From Paris to New York to Torrance come Monsieur and Madame Pierre L. Massin of the French Embassy in New York to receive the key to the city from Mayor Bob L. Haggard. Completely unimpressed with the goings-on of his elders is the couple's 4-year-old son, Martial. (Herald photo).

(Continued on Page 11)

(Continued on Page 11)