



**RESCUE MISSION . . .** Wearing armpit rubber waders a Herald reporter slushes through flood waters in West Torrance to rescue a chicken that sought to keep its feet dry by hopping on a floating guitar. (Herald photo by Dick Friend.)

## Part of 578th Starting Home from Korea

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# FIVE FAMILIES FORCED FROM HOMES BY FLOOD

## Victims Seek Place to Live In Emergency

At least five families, including a score of children, have been forced to evacuate their flooded homes in the vicinity of Sepulveda and Hawthorne blvds. in West Torrance.

The American Red Cross and the Disaster Unit of Torrance's Civil Defense section are attempting to locate homes for the evacuees.

One of the residents, a National Electric Products Co. worker, was forced to abandon his trailer home. He was fearful that their 18-month-old son might push open the trailer door and drown in the foot of water which has marooned the trailer.

Another family, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Stonebreaker, 22726 Earl St., can only enter their flooded home through a window. Stonebreaker, a machinist helper at Columbia Steel Co., hopes the Red Cross will be able to find a home for his family of three children. The rain waters of last week pouring into the area have flooded out the cesspool, leaving the house without sewage.

Hard hit also is the home of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Graves and their two children, who are neighbors to the Stonebreakers. The butane gas tank at the Graves home is nearly empty. The flood waters, two and three feet deep surrounding the house, make it impossible for a butane truck to reach the area to refill the tank.

Other families known to have evacuated their homes as the waters poured into the area from the surrounding slopes include: Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd B. Lane, Mr. and Mrs. Tony Rodriguez, and their five children.

Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Molina and their children, were forced to abandon their Ocean Ave. home during the heavy rains which hit this area early in February. They returned recently only to evacuate again following the heavy rains of last weekend.

Meanwhile, Mrs. Pauline Dodson, Red Cross case worker, is attempting to locate a rental for the Stonebreakers and their three children.

The Stonebreakers have been unsuccessful in locating a house to rent within their area.

Police officers here helped to round up a whole pack of POW's Thursday evening.

Chief of Police John Stroth, on his way home, became involved in a street battle on Plaza Del Amo near the Education Offices. Ammunition was sailing across the busy street.

Stroth radioed in for another police car and Officers Don Hamilton and Don Nash went to the scene.

The three succeeded in subduing both the "good ones" and the "bad ones" and hauled the whole tribe back into headquarters for interrogation. Several minutes later, all the warriors, pre-teen and teenage boys, were released to their parents, sans their BB guns.



**MURDER MILE DEATH SCENE . . .** Nineteen-year-old Jack D. Erwin was fatally injured Saturday night when his car skidded on wet Pacific Coast Hwy. and struck a power pole. Gordon Nelson, 18, on ground and Dennis Chase, being bandaged by ambulance attendant Fred Carnes, both were severely hurt. Erwin's body is covered by a blanket, just right of Nelson. (Staff photo by Dick Friend.)

## 'Murder Mile' Crash Costs Life of Youth

Murder mile, that mile-long stretch of road which has claimed several lives, teamed up with slippery streets to bring the area's third traffic fatality late Saturday night, when a 19-year-old Redondo Beach youth was instantly killed in a terrific one-car crash.

Killed on Pacific Coast Hwy., one-quarter mile west of Pennsylvania Ave. when his car skidded off of the road and smashed into a power pole was Jack D. Erwin, 630 Vincent Park, Redondo.

Wet weather also caused at least two other serious traffic mishaps, but the number of persons injured was few.

Two others riding in Erwin's car sustained serious injuries. Another passenger, Daniel P. Chase, also 18, of Manhattan Beach, received serious head injuries and cuts. Chase was released from the hospital Tuesday.

All were taken to Harbor Hospital, where Erwin was pronounced dead on arrival.

In another accident, Kenneth Nelson, 34, Harbor City, and his 3½ year old son, Danny, narrowly escaped drowning when Nelson's auto skidded and plummeted off the highway into a slough at East Rd. and Vermont Ave. Saturday afternoon.

Nelson told CHP officers R. Bossaert and R. Teuber that he was driving homeward when he applied the brakes to avoid hitting another car. His car skidded, catapulted the road shoulder and landed upside down, in three feet of water.

"I all happened so fast I don't remember being covered by the water, but suddenly I found myself with only my head above the water. I looked for Danny but he wasn't there," Nelson said.

"I groped around and found him under the water beside me. We ducked under the front seat to get into the rear, where the water was more shallow," he related.

Nelson smashed out a rear window and made his exit. A passerby took them to Harbor Hospital where Nelson was treated for a bruised leg, and Danny for a cut hand.

They live at 931 W. 25th St., Harbor City.

Two others who were pushing their lucky star to its legal limit Saturday were Melvin J. Herd, 19, Wilmington, and Elton LaVine, Her-

## Here's Chance For Tax Advice

A representative of the Franchise Tax Board will be at the Torrance Chamber of Commerce building at 1345 El Prado today from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. to assist anyone in this area with problems concerning payment of the 1952 State of California income taxes.

## Men of 578th Start Home for Discharge

Fifty officers and 389 enlisted men of the 40th Infantry Division will leave Korea today for the United States and a discharge.

Included in the first group of those to start homeward under the Army's new policy of releasing National Guardsmen ahead of the end of their terms of service, will be at least one officer and several enlisted men from the 578th Engineers, a battalion made up of Torrance, Long Beach, Harbor City and South Bay soldiers.

Every man in the division who is due for discharge in May, will be in the first group, according to Major General Dan-

iel H. Hudelson, division commander. Included will be a few men who are not due to be discharged until June.

There has been no change in the basic consideration governing the discharge of the men, the commander said.

The division's combat effectiveness and its ability to give battle defensively or on the offense must be maintained, Gen. Hudelson said.

## Here is Last Copy of Weekly Torrance Herald

This is your last issue of the weekly Torrance Herald. Sunday morning, on your doorstep, will be another issue of the Torrance Herald—the semi-weekly Herald.

Beginning Sunday and every Thursday and Sunday morning hereafter, monthly subscribers will receive a copy of the Torrance Herald delivered to them by one of the many "Little Merchants" who have contracted to deliver the semi-weekly news paper.

The announcement last week that the Herald was "going" semi-weekly was received as good news everywhere throughout Torrance.

"The comments and congratulations from many different sources has already assured us we have taken the right step," said Grover C. Whyte, publisher. Today marks the birth of another new venture for the Herald. This morning eight other community papers were born. These eight newspapers will be distributed FREE to every home not subscribing to the Herald.

Two reasons prompted the launching of the eight other community newspapers in the greater Torrance trading area. First, there has long been a need for the communities sur-

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## Commission Has Hot 'Informal' Meeting Night

Although no fault of its own, the Recreation Commission Tuesday night found itself in hot water with several people attempting to turn up the fire.

The commissioners met as an informal group, not as an official body, to discuss the hiring of personnel for the coming summer recreation program.

The TUT group, through Tony Bilotti, a North Torrance political leader, sought the use of McMaster Park Recreation Hall for a political meeting on March 25.

Bilotti felt he was getting a fast shuffle from the commission because they refused to grant permission to his group for use of the building. This

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## Ohh—For Them Thar Good Days

First it was the penny postal card; now it's the five-cent phone call—all things of the past, like "roll your own" cigarettes.

For tomorrow the rate for local telephone calls from some 70,000 coin phone stations throughout California will be changed to one thin dime instead of one fat nickel.

The conversion is being completed three months ahead of an eight months period allowed by the State Public Utilities Commission.

## Three to Seek Re-Election To School Board

Three members of the present Torrance Board of Education indicated Tuesday night they would seek reelection to the board at the school election on May 16.

Signing forms were Mrs. Grace Wright, Carl Steele and Dr. Rollin Smith.

Mrs. Wright, moderator of the Torrance Educational Advisory Council since its inception, will be running for the board for the third time. She was first elected for one year in 1947 when the Torrance Unified School District was formed. In 1948 she was re-elected for her first full term of office.

Carl Steele, long-time employee of the Columbia Steel Co., likewise has served on the board since its inception five years ago.

Dr. Rollin Smith, head of the Harbor Animal Hospital, will be running for a seat on the board for the first time. He was appointed to the board late in 1950 to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Albert Jackson, a former city councilman.

Another name likely to be on the ballot is J. A. Beasley, a member of the City Recreation Commission. Beasley, a Walteria merchant, indicated at a meeting of the Recreation Commission Tuesday night that he would resign from the commission if elected to the board.

Closing date for filing nomination petitions is April 16.

## Torrance Near Top In Southland In Building Permit Valuations

That Torrance building activity is extremely high among Southern California cities was revealed this week when unofficial permit-valuation figures for 72 Southland cities were published.

The announcement followed one made by the Torrance City Council that they had put the "go ahead" stamp on a \$3,000,000 housing expansion program to begin here at once.

Largest is a 182-lot tract near the Sepulveda Gardens development in the area south of Sepulveda and west of Hawthorne blvds. Subdivider Truman Brown's plans were approved subject to recommendations of the Planning Commission.

A 111-lot tract is to be constructed in the same area, built by the Builders Mortgage Co. A third subdivision will go up at the northeast corner of Yukon Ave. and 109th St. in North Torrance. This will be built by Kenneth Koll.

But subdivisions are not offered.

## Loddy Popovich Wins Student Speaker Nod

Loddy Popovich, a Torrance High School junior, topped two other student speakers Tuesday noon to win the 15th Annual Lions Club speech contest.

Tied for second place were Roger Wright, a senior who was a contestant in last year's contest, and Darryl Lee, a junior making his first appearance as a speaker in the annual contest.

The three youths, speaking before members of the Torrance Lions Club during its regular meeting at the Ding How Cafe, spoke on the subject of "Learn to Live Together."

Popovich will speak against winners from other clubs at a "zone" contest to be held April 3 at a meeting of the San Pedro Lions Club.

The annual contest, sponsored by the Lions Clubs of California and Nevada, offers a \$1000 scholarship to the student declared to be the best in District Four. Judges for the local contest were Jim Lawson, former radio announcer, and two members of

the Torrance Toastmasters, Fred Mill, National Supply Company executive, and Sgt. G. S. Evans of the Torrance Police Dept.

The three finalists were chosen from among more than 30 local high school students who were coached by Desmond Wedberg, high school speech and dramatics instructor.

John Steinbaugh, principal of Torrance High School, suggested that the student speaker be invited to present his eight-minute talk before the joint service club meeting on March 24.

Speech contest chairman Jack Schilling was unable to attend the meeting. Pinch-hitting as chairman was Jack O. Baldwin.

## Officers Halt Street Gun War; Nab 'Suspects'

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