

\$30,000 HOLD-UP VICTIM ADMITS SHORTAGE IN CREDIT UNION FUNDS

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Refinery Accident Kills One, Hurts Another

Worker Dies of Electrical Shock, Burns

One man was mortally injured and his partner received critical injuries Monday when a piece of pipe that the two men were working on at General Petroleum refinery fell against a 16,500 volt electrical transmitter.

Charles J. Cunningham, 47, 15413 Fay Smith Ave., a pipefitter, died Tuesday afternoon from injuries received and Burton M. Holman, 33, 15830 S. Western Ave., a craft helper, is in serious condition at the San Pedro Community Hospital.

The two men were repairing a large tank when the piece of pipe became disconnected and fell against the electrical line, setting their clothing on fire. They were treated at the hospital and later removed to the hospital. The accident broke a 1,500,000-hour lost time accident record at the plant.

Cunningham, who had been employed at General Petroleum since 1942, is survived by his widow, Asa, and one child.



OPERATION A SUCCESS . . . Tommy Monaghan tells his mother he can see three Easter eggs she is holding after doctors removed bandages from his left eye earlier this week. Specialists removed two eyelashes which had become imbedded in the eye when the lad fell into a tree nearly two months ago.

Injured in Tree Spill

Operation Removes Two Lashes From Boy's Eye

Regaining sight in his left eye this week is a 7-year-old Torrance lad who underwent a delicate eye operation recently to remove two eyelashes which were embedded in his eyeball.

The boy is Tommy Monaghan, son of Mr. and Mrs. L. S. Monaghan of 3228 Dalemead.

Discovery by his mother that Tommy was going blind in one eye was, as she describes it, "accidental." The boy had accompanied his mother, a friend, and her daughter to an eye doctor. While there, Mrs. Monaghan asked the doctor to look at her son's reddened eye. He discovered the lad was almost blind from a cataract forming across the cornea.

Questioning by his mother led to the discovery that her son had fallen into a tree about Valentine's Day but no one, including Tommy, had regarded the mishap as anything more than a minor tumble.

Last week a San Pedro eye specialist operated on the boy's

eye, removing the eyelashes, the cataract and slitting the boy's pupil to enable the eye to drain properly and to enable it to heal quickly.

Anxious Moment

The boy's anxious parents witnessed the removal of the bandage just before Easter. The boy covered his good eye while his mother held up some Easter eggs. "How many do you see?" "Three," the boy told his encouraged mother.

Tommy is going to regain the sight of his eye. It will take time and special lenses, but the eye specialist, who wishes to remain anonymous, states that the boy will be able to see quite normally when he is a bit older.



JOHN S. GIBSON . . . Returned to Office

Gibson Returned By Highest Vote In Area History

Councilman John S. Gibson, representing the 18th councilmanic district, was returned to office in Tuesday's voting by the largest vote ever given a candidate for the office in the district.

Gibson was returned to office for a four-year term by outdistancing his three opponents nearly three to one.

Out of the 233 precincts in the district, Gibson received 16,896 votes. George W. Love received 5093, Edward S. Byers 1093, and Peter Syssak 1700.

The 24,692 ballots cast for the candidates was the highest in the 28-year history of the district. Gibson's margin was almost twice that of any other candidate in history.

"I shall continue to do my level best to prove worthy of the trust the people of this area have shown in me," Gibson told the Herald yesterday.

He credited his victory to the work of friends throughout the district, which includes the Shoring Strip and Harbor City, and to the method of representation he has inaugurated in the advisory committees in each area.

"The advisory committee plan received 5003, Edward S. Byers 1093, and Peter Syssak 1700. He indicated that the system would be continued.



E. J. "CHRIS" SORENSON . . . New Optimist President

'Chris' Sorenson Heads Optimists

E. J. "Chris" Sorenson, of 1631 Madrid Ave., real estate salesman for Alter Realty, was named president of the Torrance Optimist Club for 1953-54 in elections held by the service club here Monday evening.

Sorenson will succeed Forrest W. Meyers, of 1328 Crenshaw Blvd., who will turn his gavel over to the new president in June.

Other officers elected by the club for the coming year include C. A. Woodcock, of 911 Kornblum Ave., first vice-president; Reid Bundy, 1121 Patronella Ave., second vice-president; and E. V. Winkelbauer, 2713 Martha Ave., secretary-treasurer.

Directors Named

Elected to the board of directors were Dr. J. S. Roberts, Dr. Rodney Stetson, Robert Evans, Hal Massey, and Berton Scott. President Meyers will also be on the board.

Inducted into the club preceding the election were five new members. Charter president of the club, Atty. Boris Woolley, presided over the induction of George Bradford, Larry Batty, Paul Klinger, Dr. Bill Davies, and Roy Smith.

Five other new members will be inducted at a future meeting, Meyers said.

Mrs. Pluma Whyte Named Herald Publisher After Court Victory

Complete control and possession of the Torrance Herald was accorded Mrs. Pluma C. Whyte, widow of the late Herald publisher Grover C. Whyte, yesterday in a Long Beach court where Judge Paul Nourse of Dept. B of the Long Beach Superior Court denied Brown's "Order to Show Cause" why he should not be placed in control and possession of the Torrance Herald.

Attorney James M. Hall represented Mrs. Whyte. Brown contended that as a surviving partner of the late

partner with right to inherit the business upon the death of Grover Whyte on March 8 of this year.

Judge Paul Nourse of Dept. B of the Long Beach Superior Court denied Brown's "Order to Show Cause" why he should not be placed in control and possession of the Torrance Herald.

Shortly after June 21 Brown filed an action in the Superior Court seeking to dissolve his partnership with Whyte and asked the court to prescribe the terms of settlement of his 10 per cent interest. This Whyte agreed to do. That case is set for hearing on June 3 in Long Beach. At that time the court will decide what, if any, benefits Brown has coming.

Meanwhile, Mrs. Whyte continues as administratrix of the Torrance Herald under the terms of an earlier court order, according to Hall. In effect the court decision of yesterday now makes her publisher of the Herald, a position held by her late husband for the 30 years prior to his death.



MRS. PLUMA C. WHYTE . . . New Herald Publisher

publisher he was entitled to possession of the newspaper. Prior to June 21 of last year Brown had an agreement with Whyte whereby he was to receive 40 per cent of the profits under a partnership agreement. Brown sought to enlarge this into a

Toastmasters Install Here

J. A. Hencel, who was hospitalized after undergoing major surgery, was installed in absentia as the new president of Torrance Toastmasters Club in ceremonies held at the Fish Shanty Tuesday evening.

Police Sgt. G. S. Evans, deputy governor of Toastmasters, served as installing officer.

Also installed was M. T. Ham-

ilton, vice-president; W. Jensen, secretary; E. E. Wilson, treasurer; A. E. McVicar, sergeant-at-arms; and Evans, deputy governor. Wilson was installed in absentia also as he was in the hospital at the time of the ceremonies.

Hencel succeeds D. H. Behen as president.



ADmits SHORTAGES . . . Joe Aiden, manager of the National Supply Employees Credit Union, admitted to Torrance Police yesterday that there were "certain shortages" in the credit union funds under his control. He was booked on suspicion of having committed a felony.

With Lie Detector

\$30,000 Holdup Victim OKs Test

Joe Aiden, manager of the National Supply Employees Credit Union and victim of a \$30,000 holdup last Thursday, was arrested yesterday after he admitted he had embezzled certain credit union funds for his own use.

He denied, however, any knowledge of who the thugs were, who slugged and robbed him a week ago.

Detective Captain Ernie Ashton said that the victim had agreed to take a lie detector test this morning "for the good of all concerned."

Aiden called Gale Whitacre, a former policeman and presently president of the ENESCO, and told him of the shortages. He was arrested and booked by Det. Capt. Ashton on Section 837 of the Penal Code. Police said they arrested Aiden at his home at 25114 Woodward Ave., Lomita at 3 p.m. yesterday.

Police plied Aiden with questions regarding the robbery, but he denied any knowledge of the holdup. Aiden was clipped on the chin shortly after leaving the Torrance National Bank with the cash, all in \$20 bills or less, with which he intended to cash employees' payroll checks the following day.

On the manhunt side of the case, Det. Capt. Ashton had little to report.

"With such a meager description to go on, it is doubtful if we will get a break on this

case with the information we were able to put on the teletypes," he said.

The 35-year-old credit manager is to take a lie detector test given by the Los Angeles Police Department at 10:30 a.m. today in the old Los Angeles city jail.

He was brought to the Torrance city jail and booked on a suspicion of having committed a felony.

On the manhunt side of the case, Det. Capt. Ashton had little to report.

"With such a meager description to go on, it is doubtful if we will get a break on this

Anti-Buzzers Get Another Hearing Here

Another round in the continuing fight of a small group of Lomita property owners to curtail operations of the Torrance Municipal Airport is scheduled for the Torrance City Hall on April 20, Assemblyman Vincent Thomas reported from Sacramento yesterday.

In a letter to Mrs. Victoria Phillips, official of the Lomita Property Owners and Registered Voters Association, Inc., Thomas said another in a series of meetings would be held under the auspices of the State Aeronautics Commission.

The Lomita group has conducted an "anti-buzzing" campaign for several years and a number of investigations conducted by the State has failed to support their charges that low-flying aircraft endanger the lives and property of Lomitans.



PREPARES BOMB LOAD . . . Airman First Class Bill D. Garner, 803 Anapola Ave., installs tail fins on a load of 600-pound bombs just before a night mission by B-29 Super-

forts against Communist military targets deep in North Korea. Garner enlisted in the Air Force in September, 1948, and has served in the Far East one year.

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