

# Police Chief Denies Officers Involved in Beating

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## WEATHER

Increasing cloudiness today is expected to culminate in rain tonight, according to the Weather Bureau. Clouds and local fog are anticipated with little change in temperature. High today should be around 61, with a low of 38 early this morning.

# TORRANCE HERALD

—and Torrance Herald Shopper reaches 100,000 Buyers

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12 PAGES

# DESPERATE MAN TRIES TO SELL EYE

## Man Offers Eye For Sale To Pay Debts

A desperate man came into the Herald office Friday morning and asked if he could place a classified ad.

When the girl at the counter asked him if he was trying to sell something, he said "Yes. I want to sell one of my eyes."

The bearer of this startling statement was Jack Stallings, 26, of 1920 Torrance Blvd., who has been so plagued with bad luck during the past few years that he has been reduced to the desperate desire to sell a living eye to get himself and his wife, Helen, 32, out of debt.

Stalling's trouble started in 1947, right after he got out of the Navy. He suffered a ruptured appendix, which flooded his system with its poisons.

Since then, life has been a series of hospitals and operations for Jack Stallings. In March of 1947, he was operated on for adhesions following the rupture of his appendix. In 1951 he underwent two operations, both for hernia; in April, '53, he was operated on for a bowel obstruction, and in May he underwent another operation, this time for ulcers.

As a result, Stallings is in such a weakened physical condition that he cannot do strenuous work. He has applied for work at the various aircraft plants, but could not pass the physicals. His last regular employment was as a bus driver, but he had to leave it last Nov. 1 because the constant twisting, and the vibrations of the bus were too much for his weakened intestines.

While Can't Work. His wife suffers from high blood pressure and thus can only do light housework, for which she is paid \$100 a month. Stallings owes \$1000 in doctor bills, with no means in sight to pay them.

The latest tragedy hit this week. One payment behind on their furniture, the Stallings were notified by the loan company that the furniture is going to be repossessed.

Casting about for a solution to his dilemma, Stallings remembered reading, somewhere, that a lady had sold her eye for money to another person who was going blind and needed a corneal transplant.

## Assault Suspect Charges Police With Brutality

Acting Police Chief Willard H. Haslam this week denied charges that officers beat up a man while in custody at the Torrance jail recently.

Charges of the "working over" were voiced in court last week by Louis Beckel, 29, of 21011 Shearer, who had been arrested by officers on a charge of assaulting Police Officer M. H. Hamilton who was employed as a private guard at a local housing development.

At his preliminary hearing on the assault charges, Beckel charged that he was beaten on three occasions while in jail here following his arrest.

Chief Haslam said yesterday that he could find nothing to substantiate Beckel's charges.

Trial on the assault charges filed against Beckel has been set for Jan. 23 in Long Beach Superior Court. He is being represented by Attorney Paul Major of San Pedro.

Traffic-actuated signals will be installed at 174th St. and its intersections with Western Ave., Crenshaw, and Prairie, when the major improvements now under way are completed, City Engineer Ronald Bishop told the Herald yesterday.

An electrically-controlled, pre-timed signal will be installed at 174th St. and Hawthorne Ave., he said.

A state highway which will eventually reach into Orange County, 174th St. is now being widened and resurfaced by the J. E. Haddock Construction Co. The highway will be a divided thoroughfare with a 16-foot dividing strip through the center when completed, Bishop said.

## International Union Backs Doak Strikers

Striking members of International Association of Machinists Lodge 720-H continued to man picket lines in front of Doak Aircraft plant this week as the workers demanded that contract negotiations between the firm and the union be undertaken.

Setting up picket lines Wednesday morning were members of the Doak Local of the IAM which represents a number of aircraft plant workers in the Southern California area.

Hugh Wilson, president of Local 720-H told the Herald yesterday that the walkout at the plant was a "duly authorized strike by the international union." He said the union maintained the position that there is nothing to hinder the company from negotiating a contract.

Company spokesmen said that the company does not feel it would be fair to a large number of its workers to enter a contract with the union. A petition for a decertification election has been filed since last August. The petition was entered by company employees who said the union did not represent them.

The strikers are asking only that a contract be negotiated, Wilson said.

## City May Buy Mineral Rights Under Airport

Leasing of oil drilling rights on the Torrance Municipal Airport property has been held up until Torrance decides whether to purchase the mineral rights from the General Services Administration of the federal government, it was revealed at this week's City Council meeting.

The Council went on record as favoring the purchase of the mineral rights and will enter discussions with GSA authorities over terms of purchase.

Bids were called recently by the GSA for slant drilling leases adjacent to the airport. No drilling rigs were to be allowed on the airport property.

Should the city take over the rights, a similar method of drilling would be used, it was indicated.

## Herald Headline Furnishes Clue To Dinner Topic

Today's headlines in the Torrance Herald will furnish luncheon conversation at the Tuesday noon meeting of the Torrance Lions Club at Alan Richard Hall, and one man who will be at the meeting is staking his reputation on his ability to predict the headline before it was written.

Chief of Police Willard Haslam has in the safe at the Torrance Police Station a glass bottle that has been fused shut by a blowtorch.

Inside the bottle is what G. Edward Eversole, the "unusual" investigator, thinks is in today's headline. The bottle was placed in the safe Jan. 8. It won't be opened until Tuesday.

Eversole, a sixth-grade teacher in Center Elementary School in Manhattan Beach, holds a bachelor of science degree from Purdue University and a master's degree from the University of California.

## Paving of Flood Control Channel Asked by City

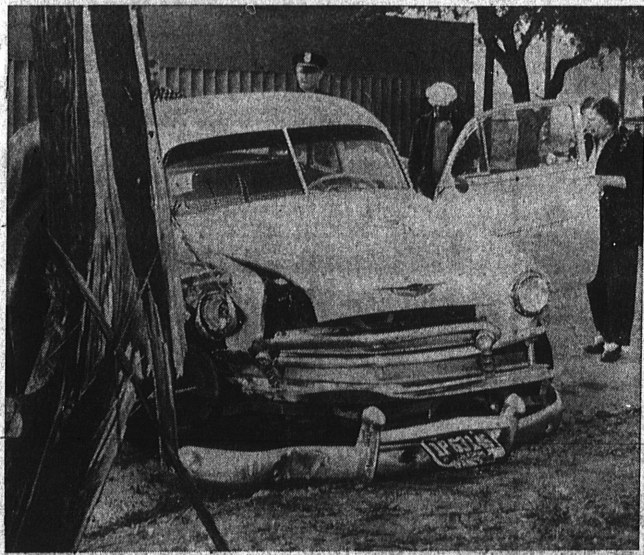
Paving of the drainage channel through Pacific Hill and the Dominguez Channel which runs through North Torrance was asked of the County Board of Supervisors in a resolution adopted by the City Council here Tuesday evening.

Both of the channels are part of the county's master flood control system. The health hazard of stagnant water standing in the channels was cited in the resolutions. Both channels have been a source of annoyance to residents in the area for some time. Residents of North Torrance complained of mosquitoes near the Dominguez Channel last summer, and Pacific Hills residents have complained of the foul smelling channel in that area since the housing development was built several years ago.

## Shop and Save Sale Announced

Shop now and save. Read the January Clearance Columns in the Want Ad Section of your Torrance Herald.

Many items in the Torrance stores have been discounted in order to make room for new merchandise. Now is the time to shop for bargains. For suggestions call FA 8-4000.



A RAT DID THIS . . . When Winona C. Darnell reached down beside her to pull a cage of white rats back onto the auto seat, she lost control of the car, she told Police Sgt. Bill Evans yesterday morning. She suffered only a cut nose, but the car was extensively damaged, and the power pole was snapped off. Accident happened in front of 2671 Carson St.

## City, Chemical Co. Agree on Operation

Formal agreement for the continued operation of the John Wiley Jones Co. here at 1904 Border Ave. was reached in the City Council this week following a public hearing recently on the plant.

Three conditions in a stipulation drawn up to allow the operation of the chlorine bottling plant were agreed to by a representative of the firm and the City Council.

## Preliminary Date Set for Keystone Stabbing Suspect

Preliminary hearing will be held tomorrow for Willie Bivins, 41, accused of stabbing his wife with intent to kill after a day-long drinking bout on Jan. 2 which climaxed in an argument over the family dog.

Bivins was arraigned Tuesday in Compton Municipal Court and held under \$10,000 bail. Arresting officers reported that Bivins allegedly stabbed his wife Josephine, 32, with a pen knife and a butcher knife, then cut his own throat after an argument over whether to let the family dog into the Bivins house at 2627 S. Vermont Ave.

## Shidler Scoffs at Plan to Form Court in Torrance at Dedication

Judge John A. Shidler, president of the Torrance Board of Education, scoffed at the idea of attempting to create a separate municipal court here when he appeared at a dedication ceremony for a new South Bay courtroom, held Wednesday.

The judge explained that "it is less expensive to increase the facilities of an existing court than to create new courts." He implied, however, that due to the growth of South Bay cities, there will be more courtrooms and possibly a Superior Court.

"I feel the local (South Bay) area is the most deserving (in the county) for a Superior Court," he said.

The recent census held here officially qualified the city for a municipal court and civic officials have urged that a court be created to eliminate the necessity of having local citizens travel all the way to Redondo and the South Bay Court to settle legal matters.

## Council Studies Plan to Open Arlington Ave.

Opening of a new route into Torrance from North Torrance is under study by the City Council following such a recommendation from the Planning Commission.

Recommended by the planners and referred by the Council to its next agenda meeting was the plan to extend Arlington Ave. through from its present ending at 190th St. southward into Torrance.

Preliminary studies of the right-of-way have been under way by the city's Engineering Department.

Councilman Nick Drake recommended the opening of the street by saying it should provide better access to the downtown area.

## Funeral Rites Pending

Funeral services are pending at Stone and Myers Mortuary for Roy L. Johnston, 64, retired newspaper publisher, who died Thursday at Torrance Memorial Hospital.

In conjunction with the opening of the additional courtroom to South Bay Municipal Court, a branch office of the District Attorney was opened and will be presided over by Dep. Dist. Atty. William B. Keene, of Manhattan Beach.

Supervisor Burton W. Chase of the Fourth District officially dedicated the new courtroom and District Attorney S. Ernest Roll opened the new branch office in the South Bay Cities Civic Center Building.



Jack Stallings explains his predicament to Herald editors. Weakened by a series of operations, in debt to doctors and unable to work to pay them, Stallings has decided to sell an eye to a wealthy person with falling eyesight who might offer a good price for a healthy eye to be used in a corneal transplant.



IN NEW COURT . . . Judge Otto B. Willett, seated, will preside in the new courtroom of the South Bay Municipal Court, dedicated Wednesday by Supervisor Burton W. Chase, right. Judge John A. Shidler, presiding judge of Dept. No. 1 of the court, left, and Collamer A. Bridge, former city judge in Hermosa Beach, who acted as master of ceremonies at the dedication, look on.