

# Night Riders Wreck Lawns, Knock Down 13 Stop Signs

PUBLISHED EVERY SUNDAY AND THURSDAY MORNING  
—the ONLY Newspaper Published AND PRINTED in Torrance. Established 1914.

"Twice Weekly Is Twice As Well Read"

10¢

Per Copy

Every Sunday and Thursday From Delivered by Carrier -30 Cents Per Month (Average 9 Issues Per Month)

12 PAGES

## TORRANCE HERALD

—and Torrance Herald Shoppers Reach 100,000 Buyers

39th Year—No. 74

TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 1953

PHONE FAirfax 8-4000



**REPAIRING THE DAMAGE . . . Mrs. Rex Welch, wife of the Torrance High School athletic coach, enlists the aid of her daughter, Char Malee, in repairing her flowers and lawn after two youths in an auto went on a rampage Thursday night and knocked down 13 stop signs and spilt across the lawns and flower beds of at least nine local homes. The wild riders made the "bucket" Friday morning and are currently serving a 15-day sentence. (Herald photo).**

## Legion, City Plan Fete for Freed POW

Veteran organizations and the city are planning a big dinner in honor of Danny Arellano, 21-year-old Torrance-born soldier who has just returned home after 33 months in a Red prison camp.

The ex-POW will be honored at an affair to be staged in the American Legion Hall Tuesday evening starting at 6:30 o'clock.

The city is planning to give the former Torrance High School boy a gift.

Friday night the Gardena Card Clubs gave the returning GI a check for \$500. His father, Angel Arellano, an employee of Columbia Steel Co. for the past 28 years, lives in Gardena. The United Steelworkers of America presented the former war prisoner and another freed POW from Gardena each with a check for \$25.

The presentations included a number of gifts and purchase orders from Gardena merchants which were presented to Arellano following a parade of several hundred people and military units.

The honor program here is being arranged by Roland Grover and Bob Ernst of the Bert S. Crossland Post, the American Legion. Grover, finance officer of the post, said he would like to make the event a city-wide affair, but due to the limited quarters of the Legion Hall this is impossible. However, all veterans are invited to attend.

Mayor Mervin Schwab will make the presentation to Arellano. The freed Red-captive, who has lived in Torrance since birth, left Torrance High School at 18 years of age to join the Army. He was shipped to Korea in 1950 and in December of that year was taken prisoner by the Reds. He is the only Torrance serviceman taken prisoner by the Communists.

The parade in Gardena included units from the National

## Compromise Map For Disputed Tract Outlined

Engineers for the Don-Ja-Ran developers are studying a compromise map for the development of the Louis B. Mayer land in the Hollywood Riviera area this week after city officials and the Hollywood Riviera Homeowners Assoc. put their stamp of approval on the plan.

The map, drawn up by Assistant City Engineer John Patrick and Planning Consultant Earle Lloyd, was presented to the Hollywood Riviera homeowners for their approval last week. A resolution drawn up after a homeowners meeting recommended approval of the map with the added recommendation that adequate storm drains be provided and that street grades be brought into the maximum allowed by the State.

An informal meeting between the City Council and the Planning Commission Wednesday evening resulted with both groups indicating their favor of the rough tract map drawn up by Patrick and Lloyd.

Their map would be an alternative to a subdivision plan submitted by the Don-Ja-Ran Company which was turned down by the City Council recently.

The street layout in the compromise plan follows more closely by contour arrangement of existing streets throughout Hollywood Riviera. The plan of the developers to run the streets perpendicular to the contours was the main objection of the neighboring homeowners. Results of the Don-Ja-Ran Company study should be known this week.

## Cops Nab Pair After Wrecking Yards, Signs

Spending 15 days in county jail after knocking down a dozen stop signs with their auto Thursday night are two Torrance boys who were picked up early Friday by a squad of Torrance police who had combed the city for them for several hours.

Sentenced to 180 days in county jail with all but the first 15 days suspended were Emmett Joe DeBennett, of 2443 Gramercy, and Robert Lee Fenwick, of 2087 1/2 Torrance Blvd.

The pair led police on a merry chase beginning about 10 p.m. Thursday when residents all over town began calling the station and reporting that a custom-built convertible was driving across lawns and pushing stop signs down with the auto.

Falling victim to the rampaging auto were stop signs at Torrance and Madrona, Torrance and Maple, Cabrillo and Del Amo, 220th St. and the railroad tracks, Arlington and Plaza Del Amo, Acacia and Sonoma, Carson and Fern, Carson and Crenshaw, Fern and Eldorado, Beech and Sonoma, Cabrillo and Sepulveda, Olive and 228th, 228th and the railroad tracks, and at 242nd and Hawthorne.

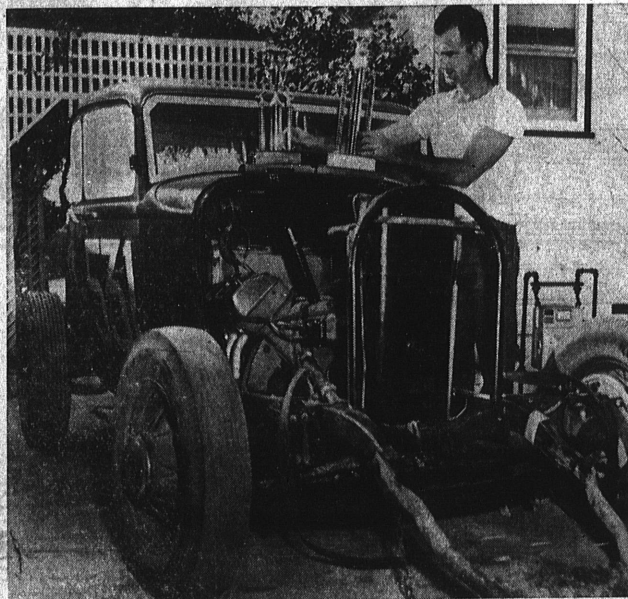
Lawsuits taking a beating were those at 2613 Martha St., 2617 Martha, 2621 Martha, 1755 Santa Fe, 1759 Santa Fe, 1763 Santa Fe, 1767 Santa Fe, 1849 Santa Fe, and 1847 Santa Fe.

Also tagged to the pair was the destruction of six large hedges at the YWCA on Plaza Del Amo, which city park officials said would cost \$160 to replace.

In addition to the jail sentences, DeBennett and Fenwick were placed on summary probation with the condition that they reimburse the city and the YWCA for the damage, within 90 days. Each will owe the city about \$50 and the YWCA about \$75, according to Police Chief John H. Stroth.

## Skill Saw Stolen

Al Wutzke of Torrance Concrete told police Thursday that someone stole a skill saw from the job at 233rd and Pennsylvania.



**HE DID THE IMPOSSIBLE . . . Don Bishop, local hot rod builder, shows the two trophies he picked up last week when he set a new speed record at the Bonneville, Utah, speed trials. In his Chrysler-powered 1932 Ford coupe Bishop turned 160.852 miles per hour—"an impossible feat" say many hot rodders as they view Don's car. (Herald photo).**

## Hot Rodder Sets New Record at 160 mph

They shake their heads, look at Don Bishop's Chrysler-powered '32 Ford coupe, and say, "It's impossible." But the 28-year-old Torrance hot rod builder just smiles and cuddles up to his two gold trophies he won for setting a new speed record of 160.852 miles per hour at last week's Bonneville, Utah, speed trials.

Actually Don's car, which he keeps at his home at 1841 W. 218th St., isn't supposed to go that fast—but it does.

Don, a mechanic for McCulloch Motors in Los Angeles, runs a Chrysler V-8 valvetrain head engine in his Class D Competition Coupe and turns up about 350 horsepower during his runs through the measured mile. The car is hardly built for economy. It runs on straight alcohol, costing 54 cents a gallon.

The local speed champion won a Hallibrand Quick-Change rear end which was awarded to him by members of the "200 Mile An Hour Club" which is composed of hot rod drivers who posed of hot rod drivers who posed (Continued on Page 9)

## Building Permit Totals Continue Record Climb

Building in Torrance continued at a record breaking pace during the first 10 days of September as 278 building permits were issued with a total value of \$1,552,118.

The September permits pushes the 1953 total to \$21,000,151, which is \$3,000,000 over the all-time record set during 1951.

City officials are still holding to the prediction that 1953 totals will hit the \$25,000,000 level before the year ends. Included in the September permits were two housing developments, totaling nearly 200 homes.

## Nominate City For All-American Cities Award

Torrance has been nominated to receive the coveted All-American Cities Award bestowed each year upon eleven communities selected for outstanding citizen action by the National Municipal League and Look Magazine.

The nomination was made by R. F. Plomert Jr., president of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce for the pioneering done by the Torrance Unified School District.

In his telegram to the league, Plomert wrote:

"Greetings from Torrance, Calif. The City of Industrial Opportunity! Because of unprecedented business, residential and industrial growth, growing municipal costs have been met by cooperation of industry civic administration and school board in stretching the available tax dollar.

"Some of our city's accomplishments are the pioneering of till-up reinforced concrete school buildings as reported in a recent Wall St. Journal article. Another innovation features a new type of cafeteria facility known as a dining patio containing 2000 sq. ft. of dining space and is equipped with a pullman type kitchen of approximately 600 sq. ft. This innovation will result in a savings of over 60 per cent as compared with normal conventional type facilities. We should like to tell your organization the Torrance Story. Please send official entry blank."

The awards are made each year by a jury of distinguished citizens and experts on government. This year's jury is headed by the famous analyst of public opinion, Dr. George Gallup. Award winning cities will be featured in Look Magazine and the National Municipal Review.

## Another North Torrance Home Victim of Burglar

Someone burglarized his residence at 4026 W. 174th St. sometime Wednesday evening, Leo R. Jones, told Torrance police this week.

## CAD CAPS COPPED

Robert E. Morris, of 711-C Sartori, told police Thursday that someone lifted two Cadillac-type hubcaps from his car during the night.

## Rites Today for Jean Bentwood, Halldale Teacher

Funeral services will be held today for Mrs. Jean Bentwood, 37, a teacher for four years at the Halldale School, who died of unknown causes Friday at Seaside Hospital in Long Beach after a short illness.

Services will be held at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church at 4 p.m. this afternoon. Mrs. Bentwood's husband, Frank, is the superintendent of the church Sunday School, and teacher at Greenwood School.

The Rev. Arthur Bello will conduct the funeral rites. Interment will follow at Glenn Abbey Cemetery in Chula Vista at a later date.

Mrs. Bentwood had been a resident of Torrance for eight years and had been teaching for eight years. She was a graduate of Occidental College, and a member of the California Teachers Association and the Los Angeles Teachers Association.

## Stricter Law Enforcement Urged At C of C School Safety Meeting

Stricter enforcement of traffic laws, particularly the law prohibiting the passing of school buses when they are loading or unloading children, was a recommendation of a group of local citizens which met Thursday afternoon at the Torrance Chamber of Commerce to discuss ways of preventing accidents involving school children.

The meeting was presided over by R. F. Plomert Jr., president of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce.

The use of warning signs, the type which shows the image of a small school girl, to supplement present crossing signs was discussed by the group. The Chamber is attempting to determine the cost of the signs, according to Dale Isenberg, executive secretary.

Dr. J. H. Hull, superintendent of schools, pointed out that when schools open tomorrow, from 8500 to 9000 children will be walking to school along busy streets such as Crenshaw and Hawthorne Blvds. which are without sidewalks. To prevent accidents along these traffic-laden highways will call for an intensified driver education program. Hull told the group, "The group held a round table discussion on the various means which might be used to make drivers safety-conscious. Letters are to be written to all local pastors asking them to carry the safety message to their Club congregations. Spot announcements in theaters were also discussed as another means of getting the message to large audiences. It was suggested also that large placards bearing various safety messages be installed in the parking lots of local industries.

## From Ulster County

## Weed Crop of 'Rare' Gazettes Pop Up

Although Washington's birthday is five months away, phony copies of the Ulster County Gazette, which supposedly carried a story of Washington's death, are beginning to pop up all over town like a crop of weeds following the first spring rain.

Two weeks ago a local newspaper editor got stung (as has many an editor before him) when he ran a story about a "rare" find, a copy of the 150-year-old newspaper stored away among some old things belonging to Harry S. Dudley of 2366 W. 213rd St., a Torrance municipal bus driver.

The next week the editor, still hooded apparently, ran another story about Mrs. Ruby Carter of 618 Annapolis Ave., who was supposed to learn that Dudley had a copy of "her" newspaper.

Still another Torrance resident, Walter Rowland, 839 Sartori Ave., has a copy, (he has named his) of the "rare" Ulster County Gazette. All three have the same date line.

Actually only two genuine copies of the Gazette are known to exist. One is in the Library of Congress and the other in the archives of the American Antiquarian Society at Worcester, Mass.

John Hangerford, editorial



**FRAMED IS RIGHT . . . John Noel Wilson views a "rare" copy of the 150-year-old Ulster County Gazette, copies of which have been popping up around town like dandelions in a new lawn. Many residents have copies of the paper which reports the death of George Washington and are under the impression the paper is a collector's item. Actually millions of copies have been sold at fairs and expositions for the last 50 years. (Herald photo).**

(Continued on Page 9)