

DEFENDERS REPEL 'INVASION FORCE'

TORRANCE'S LEADING NEWSPAPER - FIRST IN CIRCULATION - FIRST IN READERSHIP - FIRST IN ADVERTISING

TORRANCE HERALD

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Residents Jolted by Mock War

War came to Torrance Tuesday night in the first civil defense test of its kind in the country, and was termed an "outstanding success" by observers.

Cooperating for "Operation Dominguez," the Bridge Company of the 132nd Armored Engineers, local national guard unit; the Police, including reserve and mounted units; Fire Department and local civil defense units teamed up to simulate actual emergency conditions.

Both George Powell, civil defense director, and Capt. Douglas J. Horlander, commander of the guard unit, said the operation was carried out well. They said it is the first time that national guard and civil defense agencies have teamed up for such an operation.

Officials View Test
Some 75 representatives of Los Angeles civil defense, law and military agencies, as well as Army representatives, viewed the proceedings. Representatives of national news agencies were present to watch the test.

The operation featured a mock attack on facilities of the Dominguez Water Co., between Maple and Madrona Aves., north of Torrance Blvd., and utilized many different types of training.

The simulated attack caused "more than 100 persons" to call Torrance police. Scores of others called the HERALD.

The 50 members of the national guard unit sought to repel the "aggressor" with mock machinegun fire, demolition teams, rifle squads, mortar teams, and flares brought into action. The aggressor was repelled and prevented from contaminating water supplies. First aid teams also swung into action.

Agencies Cooperate
While the guardsmen sought the "aggressor," the police set up road blocks, directed traffic, and supervised the area, and the fire department put out simulated fires.

Block wardens and members of Explorer Troop 219-X also participated in the test. The project was directed by Capt. Horlander, Powell, Police Chief William H. Holman, and Sgt. Douglas C. Cook, of the Mounted Police Auxiliary.

A similar civil defense test is planned in Manhattan and Hermosa Beach in April, Capt. Horlander said.

Dad Burned Showing Son About Racer

A Torrance father was reported still on the critical list at Harbor General Hospital yesterday after a Sunday accident in which he was showing his son how to operate a midget racing car.

C. V. Goodwin, 40, of 1018 W. 22nd St., received second and third degree burns when the midget racing car overturned and burst into flames on a San Pedro dirt race track. Nine-year-old John Goodwin watched as his father overturned in the little car.

Police said Goodwin's life was saved by two passersby who put out the fire by throwing dirt on the vehicle.

Young Goodwin had been driving the car around the track before his father took over. Police estimated that Goodwin was driving about 50 miles per hour when the accident occurred.

Woman's Paintings Ruined by Vandals

Somebody who didn't like her paintings entered her house and ruined them, Alma L. Novotny, of 25707 Eshelman Ave., told Sheriff's deputies Monday. The vandals put paint thinner on the pictures, which she painted herself, and sandpapered some of them, she said.

Court Dismisses Suit to Rehire Two Inspectors

Superior Court Judge Arnold Praeger ruled yesterday that James S. Dresser and Cecil Smith delayed too long in petitioning for return to their former positions with the city building department when he dismissed a petition for writ of mandamus filed by the two men.

In dismissing the petition, Judge Praeger did not rule on the legality of the city's action in dismissing the two men, but said that dismissal of the action because of the delay made it "unnecessary for the court to pass upon the other interesting questions."

The two former building department inspectors were dismissed last year by the City Council following an investigation of alleged building irregularities in the construction of housing tracts in the city. The matter ultimately resulted in the action of the Council in stripping the Civil Service Board of the power of reviewing appeals filed by the city's Civil Service employees.

Arraignment Of Policeman Slated Today

Charged with possessing opium, Thomas Rankin, 56, retired police lieutenant, and Mrs. Ebba Irwin, 43, a police department employee, were released Monday on \$2500 bail apiece on a writ of habeas corpus.

The writ is returnable today, when they will be arraigned before Superior Judge David Coleman.

They were arrested at Mrs. Irwin's home in San Pedro, Saturday.

Rankin, of 2001 W. 164th St., is a former narcotics officer assigned to the San Pedro division of the Los Angeles Police Department. Mrs. Irwin is a switchboard operator at the San Pedro headquarters.

Dep. Dist. Atty. Moses B. Howard issued complaints charging them each with one count of possession of opium after consulting with Capt. Kenneth Irving, head of the Sheriff's narcotic squad.

All Masons are invited to the program, which will begin with a social hour at 6:30 p.m. and dinner at 8 o'clock. Tickets are \$3.50 per person. Guy Conway is in charge of the greeting committee, while Ronald Balke-man is entertainment chairman.

Reservations may be made by calling either FR 4-7400 or FR 5-7032.

Hub Caps Copped
Four hub caps were taken from his car as it was parked in a bank parking lot in downtown Lomita, Francis D. Maldon, of 24516 Narbonne Ave., told sheriff's deputies Friday.

Red Cross Hits Half Way Mark

After sweeping up \$2870 to help put almost half of Torrance's 13,900 Red Cross campaign goal in the till, "blitz" volunteers were still in the field completing assignments this week, according to Albert Isen, fund chairman.

He said "conclusive blitz results" were pending complete tabulation of returns at campaign headquarters.

In the meantime, commerce and industry returns reported by Mervin M. Schwab, chairman, tallied \$3,883, or 44 per cent of the division's quota.

The \$2870 blitz intake reported by Mrs. Grover Whyte, the first of the week, presents 55 per cent of the combined one-day quota established by the residential and small business divisions.

Returns from all participating units totaled \$6953 to represent 48 per cent of Torrance's overall \$13,900 goal.

First to report an "over the top" quota was Mrs. Robert Stamm, residential colonel, whose division in North Torrance exceeded their quota by \$100.

Commenting on the outcome to date on the first Red Cross blitz undertaken in Torrance, Isen urged volunteers to "keep at it until the first campaign job is done."

"Thus far," he continued, "we have served our basic purpose in setting an unprecedented pace for the 1955 campaign due to continue through March. If we maintain this pace, we are bound to fulfill our ultimate objective of surpassing the total \$13,900 goal by the end of the month."



MORE HOSPITAL MONEY . . . Henry W. Creeger (right) manager of the American-Standard plant here, is shown presenting his company's check for \$10,000 to Arthur Otsea, (left) chairman of the central committee for the Torrance Memorial Hospital Building Fund. Looking on in the center is Fred Mill, general co-chairman of the building fund campaign.

New Mail Area Added to City

A large portion of north Torrance now served by the Gardena Post Office will assume a Torrance mailing address starting April 1, Postmaster Clara Conner announced Monday.

All territory between 174th and 190th from Crenshaw to Western Ave., and the territory between 167th and 174th from Crenshaw to St. Andrews Pl. will be included in the change. Homes along Western Ave. will not be affected.

Change Addresses
Residents in that area should have their letters addressed to "Torrance, Calif." rather than "Gardena, Calif."

Mrs. Conner said the change was made after taking a poll of the 441 homes in the area. Service will be conducted through the recently opened North Torrance station at 174th and Crenshaw.

"This is a step in the overall unification of Torrance," she said.

Rest of Area Served
The rest of north Torrance is now served through the Torrance Post Office.

The only other large area of Torrance not included under the local Post Office is the extreme southwest part of the city, which receives its mail through the Redondo Beach Post Office.

Postal officials are adopting a "wait and see" attitude toward the possibilities of extending the jurisdiction of the post office to the area in the Palos Verdes Hills proposed for annexation. Since it is unlikely mail is delivered, but the Palos Verdes Post Office has charge of mail in surrounding areas.

Thieves Get Four Purses, Billfolds

A rash of billfold and purse thefts were reported to police over the week end, three of them in downtown stores.

Dean D. Hergenrader, of 16227 S. Vermont Ave., reported the theft of his billfold, containing \$200 to \$250, from the rumpus room of a house at 2083 W. 168th St., where he had been visiting. The door to the rumpus room was unlocked, he said.

A billfold containing \$80 was taken from a store counter as she was shopping. Dora Fields, of 1620 W. 219th St., told Torrance Police, Thursday.

A purse with \$30 was taken from the dress shop where she worked. Abigail S. Millard, of Hermosa Beach, reported Thursday.

Marie Fears, checker at the Safeway Store, reported that her purse had been taken from the locker room in the rear of the store.

Palos Verdes Sets Hearings On Annexation

A series of legal hearings—scheduled one-half hour apart—has been set up by the Palos Verdes City Council on that city's proposal to annex a buffer strip across the Great Lakes property south of Torrance. Such a move, if successful, would block a move to annex the huge Rolling Hills area to Torrance.

The three hearings, on three different sets of legal boundary descriptions, have been set by Palos Verdes for 7:30, 8, and 8:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 19. Setting the hearing dates by the Council followed disclosure of a letter from Ivar O. Hanson, general manager of Palos Verdes Properties, that the proposed action on annexation by Palos Verdes Estates was "illegal, defective, and invalid." Hanson's letter, Palos Verdes officials admitted, alleged that the Palos Verdes Council was without jurisdiction in the matter. Hanson said his company would take whatever action necessary to halt the Palos Verdes move including taking the matter to court if necessary, officials said.

In the meantime, Torrance councilmen held an unofficial hearing on the matter Monday evening, at which time a demand for 14 free school sites was reiterated and a demand made that the annexation proposal be put to a vote by Torrance voters.

Representatives of the Walteria Civic Assn. voiced the demand for an election on the matter "The official hearing will be on April 5."

Safe-Crackers Foiled, But Take \$279 Tools

Burglars failed to open a safe at the Joellin Lumber Co. Saturday. Manager Jack Brooks told Torrance Police, but they did carry away a saw, drill, plane, and motor valued at \$279.

The thieves pried open a rest room window in the store, and apparently carried their loot through it, he said. They managed to remove the combination from the safe, but were not able to open it.

Armstrong Resigns PVE Post

Pressure of business in his private law practice in Torrance and Los Angeles, prompted Donald R. Armstrong to submit his resignation as city attorney to the Council of Palos Verdes Estates at their regular meeting Tuesday evening.

Armstrong is a member of the firm of Armstrong, Newborn and Hitchcock with offices at 2211 Torrance Blvd. He has been active in community and social life in both Torrance and Palos Verdes and is a member on the Board of Directors of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce.

THIEF GETS \$2200 FROM DRUG STORE

Torrance Police yesterday were investigating the theft of \$2200 from a cash register at the Owl Rexall Drug Store, Hawthorne and Pacific Coast Hwy., Sunday noon.

Manager Edward Borin reported that the money was found to be missing when he checked, but he had no idea who took the money.

Hospital Gets \$10,000 Check

A \$10,000 gift for the Torrance Memorial Hospital Building Fund was announced yesterday by Henry W. Creeger, manager of American-Standard, at 360 Crenshaw Blvd.

The check was received by Creeger as a contribution for, and on behalf of, American Radiator and Standard Sanitary Corp. and its various Divisions.

In presenting the gift Creeger, who is serving as general chairman of the Hospital Building Fund Campaign, stated: "The new Torrance plant of American-Standard was built here in 1947 and placed in operation in the spring of 1948, and has been continuously identified in these past few years with many of the community activities, and has contributed in a large measure to the growth of the City of Torrance."

"The money is to be used in the expansion of the Torrance Memorial Hospital, and especially for the addition of a new maternity wing and surgical facilities, which at the present time do not meet the needs of the area."

Man Dies In 65-Foot Fall

A 32-year-old Monterey Park roofer was dead on arrival at the Torrance Medical Center Wednesday noon after a fall from a new building at the Harvey Aluminum Co.

An employee of the Pioneer Roofing Co., of Los Angeles, Lawrence Baca stepped through a skylight at the new building and fell 65 feet, landing on his head.

He was rushed to the center by Jacobs Ambulance, where he was found dead on arrival.

Pigeon Coop Hit

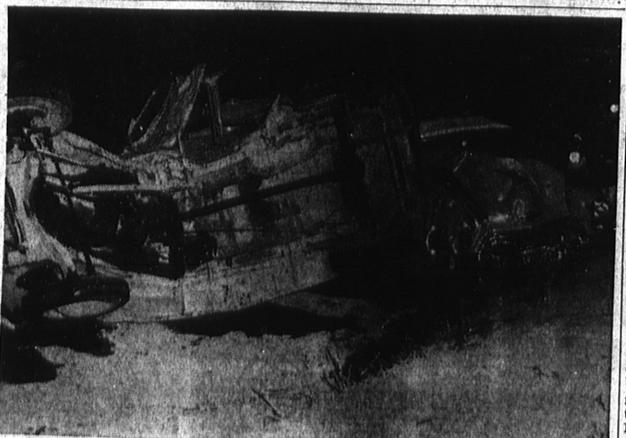
His pigeon coops were burglarized for the third time in a month. Ray S. Whitcomb, of 23101 Arlington Ave., told Torrance Police Sunday. The thieves climbed the fence and ripped the roof off his coop, Whitcomb said.

Crash Victim Enters 4th Week Unconscious

Entering his fourth week of unconsciousness after a Feb. 16 crash in Charles Slatten, 16, of 18329 Roslin Ave.

He was moved this week to Harbor General Hospital from Centinela Valley Hospital, but was reported still critical.

He was injured in a smash-up at Rosecrans and Crenshaw which took the lives of four other teenagers. Two other crash victims were released from the hospital.



TWO-CAR SMASHUP . . . Two persons were injured, one critically, in a two-car collision at 6:05 p.m. Tuesday at 208th and Figueroa Sts. Frank M. Borges Sr., 63, of 20430 Lawrence Ave., a passenger in the overturned vehicle, received a broken nose and jaw and possible internal injuries, while the driver, Frank M. Borges Jr., 24, suffered a broken elbow. Arnold G. Huntington, 19, of Whittier, driver of the other car, was shaken up. Borges' car was headed west on 208th St., while Huntington was going north on Figueroa.



R. C. HERRICK
Leads Homeowners

Riviera Group Names Herrick New President

Robert Herrick was elected president of the Hollywood Riviera Homeowners Assn. at a meeting held Monday night at the Riviera Beach Club. He succeeds Ross Dorsett.

Other new officers include Robert Jahn, vice-president; James Greer, treasurer; Mrs. Rex Hayes, recording secretary; and Gene Voorhees, corresponding secretary.

New executive council members are Darwin Parrish, Ross Dorsett, William Mason, Tony Di-Mayle, and John Strater.

Slow Signs Asked
In other action, the group voted up to \$75 for installation of "Slow, Children at Play" signs at strategic points in the area.

A report by the traffic committee indicated that:

1. There is considerable excessive speeding in the area.

2. Added police protection is desired. Residents were upset because of a rash of windows broken by bees recently.

3. Permanent locations for school bus stops are needed which do not force the children to stand in the mud.

4. "Slow" signs are needed.

5. The three-lane Palos Verdes drive is hazardous.

6. Blinker lights at Palos Verdes Dr. and Calle Miramar are needed.

James Greer was given a vote of thanks for his work in telling people of coming Homeowner's meetings.

Hitchhiker Gets Ride, But Also Gets Robbed
Hitchhiker James Ray Reinert, 14, of 1860 Torrance Blvd., got a lift, he told Torrance Police, Monday, but it cost him his billfold, some keys, and a knife.

He said he was picked up by four youths at Torrance Blvd. and Madrid Ave., who demanded his money, and when he said he had none, took his billfold and other effects. He escaped from the quartet at Torrance Blvd. and Hawthorne Ave.

Burglars Surprised, Flee with Piggy Bank
She surprised two men in her home Monday. M. C. Faye Lynch, of 23870 Park St., told Torrance Police, but the pair fled with a piggy bank containing \$10 in pennies and nickels.

Returning from the store, she tried to stop the pair, but they brushed her aside, she said.

SUBSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN ENTERS SECOND PERIOD

The second period of the Torrance HERALD subscription campaign started Tuesday with the highest remaining points of the campaign in effect until noon on March 19.

After that, the campaign will go into its final week, during which the points earned by workers will be less than at any other time during the drive. The campaign closes March 26.

Competition is keen between the campaign workers, with one subscription making the difference between rankings in some cases. Persons who have planned to subscribe should contact their favorite worker to help both themselves and the worker.

Free HERALD coupon books are being distributed with each subscription, which are being sold for \$3.60 for one year, \$7.20 for two years, and \$10.80 for three years.

The winning worker will get his or her car choice of a 1955 Chevrolet, Plymouth, or Ford, with other prizes being distributed to runners-up.

Further information can be obtained from Elaine Barrett, drive head, at FA 8-4000.