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Raisers Take Straw Out of Strawberries

They've taken the straw out of strawberries.

Torrance strawberry raisers Kay and Akira Ishibashi are helping to prove that the luscious little red fruits should now be called plasticberries.

The brothers, who grow strawberries on 14 acres located on the Torrance Airport and on a plot off Sepulveda Blvd., between Normandie and Vermont Aves., were among the first to try using polyethylene plastic as coverings under their plants instead of the traditional straw.

Article Written According to the Ishibashis, who are among the largest berry raisers in the area, use of the plastic sheets has greatly decreased the amount of berry rot and helps to hold the moisture in the ground. Their yield has increased about one-third since they tried the plastic method.

The plastic covering comes in rolls of extra-thin material which is run down the rows of plants, with slits cut in the center for the plants to grow. The coverings last about the growing life of the plants — three years.

Plastics Student Kay, who lives at 2277 W. 237th St., went to plastics school and worked for several years with plastic before he entered the strawberry business seven years ago. When

the new products came out, he was one of the first to try them and found that they worked very well.

Akira, a resident at 2410 W. 250th St., was formerly in the chicken business before he joined forces with his brother. Their father was engaged in farming at Portuguese Bend and the boys found that they liked the outdoor life, being their own bosses.

They are busy during the spring and summer, caring for their strawberry crop which runs into many millions of berries annually. The strawberry season runs from April to September. During the winter, the Ishibashis care for the plants and plant new ones. The bearing life of a strawberry plant is about three or four years. The plants are rotated on various parts of their holdings.

The Ishibashis sell their products at stands in Torrance to the public and to wholesale houses in Los Angeles.

Carma Manufacturing Gets \$89,424 Contract

An \$89,424 contract for actuators to be used by the Air Force recently was awarded to the Carma Manufacturing Co., 1879 Mullin Ave.

The award was announced by the Small Business Division of the Los Angeles Air Procurement District.



PLASTIC FOR BERRIES . . . Akira Ishibashi, holding a roll of plastic which is used underneath strawberry plants, demonstrates why the straw has been taken out of strawberries. The plastic is placed underneath the plants instead of the traditional straw. Long rolls of the plastic are used for increased yield and less spoilage of strawberry plants.

School to Continue In Summer

School bells will keep ringing at Torrance High this summer for all students who wish to take advantage of certain courses offered. Classes will start Monday, and will continue for six

weeks, according to Leonard Lifton, assistant principal. Courses to be offered include Typing, General and Practical Math, Algebra and Geometry, General Science, Modern Science and Biology,

Social Studies, Driver Education, English, Work Experience (Salesmanship and Advertising), Work Experience (Recreation).

Students interested in the classes should enroll at 8 a.m. Monday at the principal's office.

Obituaries

Patti Charlea Brown

Funeral services for Patti Charlea Brown, six-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Brown, 155 W. 222nd St., were held June 19 in the Halverson-Levell Chapel, with the Rev. J. A. Nochia, officiating.

The girl, born in Long Beach, died Sunday after a bout with the measles. Burial was in Green Hills.

Survivors include her parents, two sisters Kathleen and Sharon; grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. George Brown, Torrance, and Mrs. M. Scott, Torrance; aunts, Mrs. William Hickey, Indio, and Mrs. Ann Nichols, Wilmington; uncle, Otis Davis, Bakersfield, and several aunts and uncles in England.

Leonard A. Guarnero

Funeral services for Leonard Anthony Guarnero, 34, a resident of 21701 Ocean Ave., who had been here only three months, are being arranged in New York City. Mr. Guarnero, the father of three small sons, died in Redondo Beach June 22.

He is survived by his widow, Anna, of the Ocean Ave. address, and sons Anthony G. Santi 8 and Leonard 17 mos. Two brothers, Jack and Jeffrey, and three sisters, Grace, Gertrude, and Gloria, live in New York.

Stone and Myers Mortuary handled local arrangements.

Betty M. O'Shea

Final rites for Betty M. O'Shea, of 3034 Torrance Blvd., who died here June 22, were held in Santa Barbara yesterday with interment in that city. Stone and Myers Mortuary was in charge of local arrangements.

Infant Christian

Graveside services were held this week for the infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Everett W. Christian, of 137 W. 226th St. Rev. John Taylor of the First Methodist Church of Torrance officiated at the rites. Arrangements were handled by Stone and Myers Mortuary. The infant had been named Charlotte Arlene Christian at birth.

Alums Meet

Kansas State College alumni living in Southern California will hold their fiftieth annual reunion Saturday at Pasadena. This was announced by Ray Sloan, 20946 Halldale Ave., Torrance, president of the Southern California chapter.

Kenney L. Ford, K-State alumni secretary will be the principal speaker at the picnic in Brookside Park (Section E). The program will begin at 3 with the picnic supper at 5 p.m.

Torrance Herald

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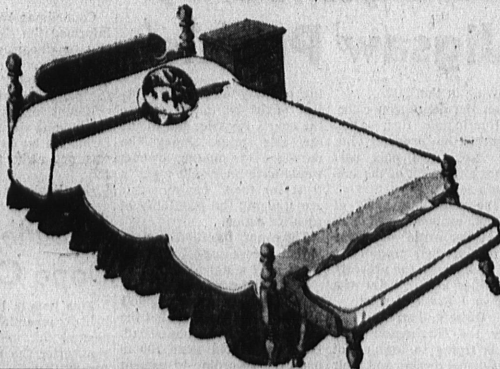
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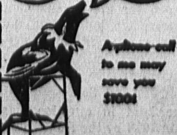


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