

# Torrance Herald

OFFICE AND PLANT AT 1619 GRAMERCY AVE., TORRANCE

43rd Year—No. 104 10¢ Per Copy

TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1957

12 PAGES

# Christmas Day Blaze Destroys Duplex Home of Two Families

## Sad Christmas Caused by Fire

Christmas wasn't merry for two Torrance families, who lost their duplex home to flames in an early-morning fire Wednesday. Homeless were Mr. and Mrs. Donald Coulson and Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Gish after fire destroyed the roof and part of the interior of the duplex at 1754 Andree Ave.

Firemen battled the blaze for three hours after receiving a 3 a.m. call from a neighbor, A. F. Palmer, 1751 Andree, who was awakened by the barking of his dog.

Damage to the house and furnishings was estimated at more than \$5700. The Coulsons were at her mother's house at the time the fire started in their kitchen closet. Firemen said cause of the fire was undetermined. The fire burned upward from the closet into the attic, causing most of the damage on the roof. It also burned through adjoining walls.

Mr. and Mrs. Gish and their 10-year-old son were awakened by the crackling of the flames and managed to escape. They are now living in a newly rented apartment while the Coulsons, who are expecting a baby next month, are staying with her mother.

Owner of the house was Howard C. Hudson, Tujunga. In other Christmas week action, the firefighters answered calls to:

The W. R. Vaker home, 267 Calle de Madrid, where hot ashes in the trash barrel started a small fire.

The Arthur Joyce residence, 2339 W. 187th St., where the hot water tank sprung a leak, sending boiling water all over.

The M. W. Mannery home, 3312 Danaha St., where the washing machine shorted out.

The Robert McKinney home, 1317 Crenshaw, where a short in the light fixture caused a small fire in the ceiling.

## Baby-Faced Baby Killer Given Life

The 15-year-old boy found guilty of the Nov. 10 murder of 22-month-old Laura Wetzel in Rolling Hills was sentenced to life imprisonment Friday by Long Beach Superior Court Judge Beach Vasey.

John Lawrence Miller, who led officers throughout California on a merry chase for two days after the murder, was found guilty of first degree murder. The little girl was found smothered in a neighbor's home and a search for Miller, identified by fingerprints at the scene, ended in Reno, Nev., two days later.

Defense Attorneys Jerome Colton and H. Leslie Wilder sought to have the youth sent to the California Youth Authority, but Deputy District Attorney Ted Sten called Miller a "vicious, treacherous, and cold-blooded" boy who was "devoid of feeling, an ill-tempered wild animal who wanted to kill someone to see how it felt."

Miller was impassive throughout the entire proceedings, but afterward announced, "I ain't gonna spend no time up there (in Chino State Prison). I'll get me a couple of guys."

Because of his age, the death penalty was not sought.

## A Penny for your Thoughts

With an eye on the calendar, the HERALD's inquiring photographer asked:

"Are you going to make any New Year's resolutions? What will they be?"

Mrs. Ruth Rummans, 1851 W. 247th St., Lomita, housewife:

"I like to try to make some resolutions. This year, I hope to try to keep my house better and not to make any debts. I make resolutions every year and try to keep them."

R. L. Moran, Riviera, towel route man:

"I suppose that one of the top resolutions would be to be alert and drive more carefully. That's just traffic sense and has to do with human lives."

Diane Banks, 13, 19210 Anza Ave., Steele School student:

"I think I'll make a resolution this year to save money. I generally make one resolution each year. Generally, I manage too."

Curt Smith, 1627 W. 228th St., apartment owner - manager:

"I resolve to help more people in 1958. I've been active in rehabilitation and welfare work for many years and I only hope to be able to do much more."

Mrs. Joseph W. 248th St., Lomita, housewife:

"I never have made a New Year's resolution. I don't believe in them and I wouldn't carry them out if I did make them. They're silly, I think."

Jim Comore, 1642 W. 214th St., grocery clerk:

"No, I'm not going to make a New Year's resolution. I think they're a waste of time. I don't believe in them. I can't keep them anyhow."

## Burglar Takes Wallet

Doris Jay Phillips, 18026 Ermanita Ave., reported to Torrance police someone had entered her home while she was at work and removed her wallet containing \$15 and personal records.

## Crash Injures Six; One Held

Six persons were injured in an accident, including one of the drivers, who was later jailed on charges of speeding, reckless driving and running a stop sign.

The accident, which occurred Thursday at Calle Miramar and Palos Verdes Blvd., happened in front of a police car which was parked at the intersection.

## Dystrophy Drive Nets \$5114.25

Local Firemen, representing the International Assn. of Fire Fighters Local 1138, have raised \$5114.25 to further the funds needed for research into the crippling fatal disease known as Muscular Dystrophy, it was reported yesterday.

The "March for Muscular Dystrophy" conducted in Torrance the first week of December was headed by Captain Walter West as chairman with Richard DeArmitt as co-chairman. The campaign consisted of a house-to-house canvas performed solely by the local Fire Fighters who gave up their "off duty" time throughout the week, ignoring the rain and cold to top their \$5000 goal.

Contributions received from the Employee's Club of National Supply of \$150, Longren Aircraft of \$25, Vicker's, \$20, Paul's Chevrolet, \$10 and Hi-Shear River, \$25, helped bring the total to \$5114.25 which is an actual figure based on contributions and does not include canister funds.

Acting as spokesman for the Fire Fighters, Engineer Jerry Hollomon, president of Local 1138 stated, "We would like to thank one and all who helped to make this drive a success, above all the citizens of this great city for the manner in which they so generously contributed to this worthy cause. It is truly a wonderful feeling to live and work among you and we now know why Torrance is, without a doubt an 'All-America city.'"

## Employes at Longren Get Long Holiday

All Longren Aircraft Co. employes will have at least one three-day week and a month. Announcement of the new plan, which goes into effect next month, was made by Hampden Wentworth, president of the firm.

During 1958, the 500-person work force will receive the Saturday, Sunday and Monday of the first week of each month. They'll work the following Saturday to make up the extra day.

They'll get four-day week ends in May, June, September and November because of Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day and Thanksgiving Day.

"This will give our employes chances to make trips and take care of personal business," Wentworth commented.

The plan was worked out by Ernest Roach, assistant superintendent of the company's Carson St. plant.

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Booked on charges of speeding, reckless driving and failure to stop at the intersection was Jesse Austin Brown, 19, of Redondo Beach.

The Brown auto hit a car driven by Ernest Joseph Johnson, 26, of 325 Calle Miramar. Johnson was thrown from his car by the impact and his 11-month-old son, Joseph Edward, and his wife, Ella Louise, 27, both were treated for minor injuries.

All three of the Johnsons, Brown, and two passengers in the latter's car, Janet Elizabeth Yellick, 14, of Redondo Beach, and Sandra Quinn, 15, of Lawndale, were taken to Harbor General Hospital for treatment.

## \$400 MORE NEEDED FOR FLOAT FUND

The fund for Torrance's entry in the New Year's Day Parade is still about \$400 shy of the \$4000 needed to put the drive over the top, according to Chamber of Commerce officials.

A call for workers last week was overwhelming, with several shifts of local residents, headed by Mrs. Victor E. Benstead, working hard to complete the float, which shows a spaceman riding a rocket with the theme, "Rocketship to the Moon." Sharon Starns, "Miss Torrance," and Sharon Smith, "Miss Chamber of Commerce," will ride the gaily colored float.

Work on the float, the first Torrance entry in the annual parade in nearly 20 years, will continue until Tuesday. Transportation will be furnished by the sponsoring Chamber of Commerce.

Donations to the float fund may be made by sending or bringing the cash, in any amount, to the Torrance Chamber office, 1345 El Prado.

## Woman Injured When Two Automobiles Hit

One person was injured when two cars collided Thursday at 190th St. and Hawthorne Ave.

Jeanette Reese, a passenger in a car driven by David Joseph Neese Jr., 29, of 3715 W. 227th St., was treated by a private physician.

The other driver was Hubert Charles Monnier, 38, of Los Angeles. Both were driving south on Hawthorne Ave.

## Herald to Publish Babson's Forecast

Annual forecasts of Roger W. Babson, internationally known business commentator and investment adviser, will be published in the HERALD Thursday.

One of American business's most inspiring personalities, Babson has become widely known for his accurate forecasts of the trends in business, finance, government policy, and other fields vital to each American.

Born and reared in an old-fashioned atmosphere of hard work and hustle on a farm in



WOMAN HONORED... Major Robert T. Aughton, Commander Long Beach Group 7 Civil Air Patrol congratulates Captain Mary C. Pinkney, selected as Outstanding Civil Air Patrol Woman of the Year, in Southern California while her husband and squadron commander, Major Robert P. Pinkney looks on with pride.

## Local Housewife Named CAP Woman of the Year

A local housewife, the mother of two children, has been named the outstanding Civil Air Patrol Woman of the Year in Southern California.

Captain Mary C. Pinkney of South Bay Squadron 43, joins two former squadron commanders, Captain Bert Pinkney of Palos Verdes (Outstanding Man of the year 1952) who was responsible for the re-organization of an inactive unit, and Captain Maurice C. Allman (Outstanding Man of the Year 1954) honored for his efforts in behalf of Search and Rescue work.

In presenting the trophy and letter of commendation during the "Sweet Sixteen" celebration of the founding of Civil Air Patrol, Lt. Col. LeRoy Breithart, southern area commander, gave recognition to Captain Mary Pinkney for her outstanding contributions in furthering the interests of the CAP program.

Captain Commended Speaking before hundreds of CAP members from San Diego to Santa Barbara, Col. Breithart commended Capt. Pinkney for her adaptability in acting as a capable public information officer and successfully switching to the role of "chief cook and bottle washer" during the recent SARCAP (Search and Rescue Civil Air Patrol) in which she was responsible for the cooking and serving of over 500 meals in the field under simulated emergency conditions.

A rated CAP observer, Capt. Pinkney, who has logged many hours of actual search and rescue flying, first became interested in aviation and in Civil Air Patrol when her husband, a former Air Force pilot, purchased a plane. Major Robert P. Pinkney now serves as Squadron 43 commander and with his wife, makes up a team interested in the promotion of aviation in all phases, both civil and military.

In addition to public information work, Captain Pinkney serves her unit as assistant commander of cadets and actively engages in working with teenage cadets interested in aviation education.

International Exchange During recent years, the local unit has had two outstanding male cadets selected for the CAP International Exchange, one for Norway and another for Chile. A former cadet, Don Almanzar of San Pedro, is now attending the United States Air Force Academy. Cadet 1/c John D. Bridgeway of Lomita was recently notified of his selection as a possible nominee for the 1958 class of the Air Academy by Congressman Cecil R. King.

The mother of two children, Captain Pinkney is also active in serving her community in local women's organizations and civic drives. A resident of Hollywood Riviera, she is a past president of Las Vecinas Women's Club, and is now serving as chairman of the Redondo-Palos Verdes unit of the Women's Auxiliary of the Hawthorne Community Hospital.

Look for Babson's forecasts in the HERALD Thursday, Jan. 2.

The local Civil Air Patrol

## Students at Junior Colleges For Wide Variety of Reasons

(This is the fourth in a series of articles exploring the place of the junior college in today's education system. Conclusions of the findings and a look into the future of junior colleges will be published in a subsequent issue of The HERALD.)

By VONDA CARLTON Herald Staff Writer

The Associated Students of El Camino College... Who are they? Where do they live? Why are they going to college?

There are 9600 persons enrolled at El Camino this year... with an estimated 1344 making their home in Torrance.

They range in age from youths of 16 to grandmothers of 65. Some plan to continue their education at a university but the majority of those 9600 are attending school on a part-time basis.

Motives for seeking higher learning are varied, according to school officials.

For example, many of the current crop of high school students will enroll at El Camino because it's becoming the thing to do. All their friends are going to college. Jobs are hard to get unless graduates have at least two years of college behind them.

Some who attend El Camino do so only because it is a way to evade going to work. This number is small, says Dr. William H. Harless, director of instruction.

No matter what reason a student has for entering junior college, he soon discovers that unlike high school, here he has to study.

Gone are the days when the student can pass a class simply

because school administrators refuse to fail him or put him back a grade.

All Must Work In college, the student discovers that either he "cuts the mustard" or he gets out. "We can not give credit

## Juvenile Hall Protest Set By Council

Torrance city councilmen are expected to approve a resolution protesting county consideration of a juvenile hall in the Torrance area.

The resolution will be read Monday, 5:30 p.m., in the Council chambers. The Monday meeting was scheduled to replace the regular Tuesday session because of the New Year's holiday.

In other action the group plans to accept an easement from the Del Amo Estate Co. for the extension of Carson St. from Madrona to Hawthorne Aves. through the proposed Del Amo shopping center property.

Prarie Ave. improvement contract is expected to be awarded to the S. A. Cummings Contracting Corp. The street will be improved from 182nd to 174th St.

without students knowing the subject," Dr. Harless declared. "It's rugged here... high schools move youngsters along... we don't."

The majority of those attending El Camino do so either in the evening or in scattered day-time classes.

More than 6600 students attend on a part-time basis. A great number of these fall in the 18-32 age bracket.

Young men and women eager to get ahead in their chosen professions find many helpful courses at the college which better fit them for their jobs, and aid in promotions and advancements.

There are those who take only one class... and this one strictly for hobby or creative purposes.

Art Class Bargain One Torrance woman, who is enrolled in an evening oil painting class, admits she would be willing to pay tuition for such a class.

"I once paid \$250 for an art class at a private college, but it wasn't nearly as comprehensive or as good as this one which costs me only \$2.50." (The \$2.50 is the cost of a student body card... it is the only fee paid by students.) While there are about 20 persons enrolled in this one

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