

# Torrance Herald

OFFICE AND PLANT AT 1619 GRAMERCY AVE., TORRANCE

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44th Year—No. 55

10c Per Copy

TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, JULY 16, 1958

32 PAGES

# EX-MAJOR DIES IN ROOM BLAZE

## Coroner Seeks Cause of Death

A former USA Intelligence Major was found dead here Tuesday morning when the apartment in which he was living caught fire.

Funeral services will be conducted tonight at 8 o'clock for Elmer J. Rose, 68, of 1414 Craven Ave. The services will be held at the residence of Mrs. Rose, 1414 Craven Ave. Burial will be in the Crypts of the National Cemetery.

Firemen are still investigating the cause of the blaze, which was discovered about 7 a.m. by an invalid who lives in the apartment below Rose.

Irene Bagley, 63, told firemen she was awakened by flaming embers which were falling on her bed from the ceiling. Crawling to her wheelchair, she alerted the apartment manager, Mrs. Josephine Knapp, who called the fire department.

Meanwhile, another tenant, Robert B. MacGregor, entered Rose's room and dragged the victim to a second-floor corridor. MacGregor told officers he found the man lying on the bedroom floor.

Fire Marshall Robert Lucas yesterday said the cause of the fire could not be determined until a coroner's autopsy report was made available. Firemen first thought the blaze was started from an electric heater.

Survivors of the victim, who saw service in both World War I and II, include a daughter, Constance Jarboe, and a sister, Marion Maloney of Jacksonville, Fla.

## Accidents in Local Area Hurt Seven

Seven persons were injured in traffic crashes in the Torrance area Sunday and Monday.

Six of the injured were involved in the collision Sunday of two cars at Normandie Ave. and Sepulveda Blvd.

Sheriff's deputies said the collision occurred when a car driven by Enrique Morales, 23, of 1055 W. 204th St., ran through a red light at high speed and struck a vehicle driven by Carol Smith, 40, of Los Angeles.

Seriously injured were both drivers: Hector Castillo, 19, of 4034 Keawood Ave., a passenger in the Morales car; Mason's wife, Marjorie, 34, and their children, Debra, 4, and Teresa, 2.

All were treated at Harbor General Hospital and later transferred to Gardena Community Hospital.

Robert Ellis Robertson, 21, 2120 Andros Ave., received minor injuries when his motorcycle and a car driven by William Olin Ziegler, 60, of 1718 Iris St., collided. Robertson was thrown from the two-wheeler.

## Council Denies Zoning Changes

A request to rezone more than 95 acres of industrial land to permit residential development in the area south of Sepulveda and west of Crenshaw Blvd. was denied by the city council Tuesday as the members voted 4-3 to concur in the recommendation for denial by the planning commission.

## Big Magnavox Facility Here Told by City

Negotiations are being completed by Magnavox Co. to purchase property in Torrance on which to construct an electronics research and development plant.

Plans for the new firm, which will be constructed on Maricopa St. between Elm and Foothill Aves. were announced Tuesday night. The 10-acre site presently is owned by the Chancellor-Western Oil and Development Co.

The plant would contain 50,000 to 100,000 square feet of floor space, and will replace present facilities in West Los Angeles.

Construction is proposed to start early next year in order to be ready for occupancy 18 months later.

Present plans call for the plant to face Maricopa St. with a 50-foot setback. The development would be eight feet lower than street level, company spokesmen said.

Nearly 125 persons are employed at the present research and development plant which does work for the military as well as for civilian television and sound production.

The Chancellor-Western Co. plans to develop the Torrance property along the lines of its Van Field industrial tract.

With Mayor Albert Isen casting the deciding ballot, the council turned down the application of the Getty Oil Co., owners of the property, and Bjorkland & Smith, developers, to rezone the 97-plus acres of property now zoned for industry. The request for rezoning was argued before the council by representatives of the applicants who stated that they had been unsuccessful in developing the property for industry.

Planning Commission President Bert Lynn strongly opposed the request in a dramatic argument during the nearly two-hour hearing.

Says It's Wrong  
"It's wrong, wrong, wrong. No matter how you slice it," Lynn said.

"It's like bringing in malaria then saying 'Let's try penicillin,'" he stated.

"Why bring in the plague in the first place," he asked.

Lynn said the discussion was not about 97 acres but about the "whole thing." About 900 acres of industrially zoned property lie in the general area under discussion.

Lynn revealed action of the planning commission to recommend multiple-family residential development and light manufacturing to serve as buffer areas between the industrial property and the residential and commercial areas nearby.

Statements by a representative of the Getty Oil Co. that industry was not interested in Torrance was refuted by city officials who announced that (Continued on Page 3)



RODEO PRIZE . . . Top rider of the 1958 Torrance rodeo held in conjunction with Ranchero Days here on the week end of July 23-27 will win this championship saddle. Shown here with the prize is I. D. C. Cook, parade coordinator; Jack Phillips, Ranchero Days chairman; and Bessie Queen Kathy Hicks.

## Local Man Has Stiff Neck; Now Counting Lucky Stars

Not knowing that the slightest twist of motion could have killed him, a 23-year-old Torrance resident walked in to Riviera Hospital three weeks ago.

Ruben Fransquillo, 18336 Ashley Ave., noticed a stiffness in his neck the next day after an accident and the pain grew worse. Finally a friend drove him to the hospital.

Doctors there diagnosed his problem. Fransquillo was returning from a fishing trip in Mexico when the car in which he was riding became involved in an accident near Long Beach. The local man helped his friends into ambulances and came on home.

It was not until the next day that pain became so severe he went to the hospital. He has been placed in traction, with long weights pulling them to keep his neck perfectly straight.

In no pain, Fransquillo spends the days watching television through an arrangement of mirrors. His motion is limited and he spends most of his time on his back or stomach.

The father of three children has one burning desire . . . to sleep for a month on his side.

Fransquillo had a broken neck. Doctors agreed that the slightest twisting of his neck would have resulted in severing the spinal cord, and in instant death.

Fransquillo was returning from a fishing trip in Mexico when the car in which he was riding became involved in an accident near Long Beach. The local man helped his friends into ambulances and came on home.

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The father of three children has one burning desire . . . to sleep for a month on his side.

## Gunmen Rob Service Station Attendant

Two gunmen held up a service station attendant Tuesday afternoon and escaped with an unknown amount of cash and 20 cartons of cigarettes.

Chris A. Spreitz, 63, told officers he was eating his lunch in the office of the station, 18910 Crenshaw Blvd., when the two men entered holding guns.

"This is a stickup . . . where's the money," one of the men demanded, according to Spreitz.

Spreitz. The second robber forced the victim to enter the rest room and threatened to "blow your head off if you come out," Spreitz said.

The two asked for the keys to the station and the victim replied he didn't have a key.

The pair fled after taking a white coin tray, the cigarettes, a watch and 50 cents. The last two items were taken from Spreitz.

## Torrance Passes Burbank in Population, Trails Downey

Torrance moved ahead of Burbank but lost out to Downey according to official population figures used by the State Controller's office to apportion motor vehicle fees to cities published this week.

While Torrance's official 93,372 population passed Burbank's 90,976, the recently incorporated city of Downey came on the list with a population figure of 97,656 to keep this city from moving a step closer to the top of the list.

- The list from the top:
1. Los Angeles . . . 2,242,901
  2. Long Beach . . . 324,822
  3. Glendale . . . 114,450
  4. Pasadena . . . 110,419
  5. Downey . . . 97,656
  6. Torrance . . . 93,372
  7. Burbank . . . 90,976
  8. Norwalk . . . 83,010
  9. Santa Monica . . . 75,122
  10. Lakewood . . . 74,988
  11. Compton . . . 63,736
  12. Pomona . . . 62,338
  13. Inglewood . . . 61,801
  14. Alhambra . . . 53,346
  15. Redondo Beach . . . 52,079

Sixth in County  
Of the total earned, \$342,568 had been received by the city in an advance payment made in April. Received in June to clear payments for the period was \$93,263.24.

Although Torrance's share is only sixth largest in Los Angeles County, it is larger than that received by many entire counties.

Santa County, with 14 cities of Bakersfield, Delano, Hanford, McFarland, Shafter, Yuba, Tehachas, and Wasco received less than \$300,000.

San Diego County with 16 cities of Carmel, Del Rey Oaks, Greenfield, King City, Monterey, Pacific Grove, Salinas, San Jose, and Seaside received less than \$400,000.

San Bernardino County with 17 cities of Redlands, Upland, Colton, Fontana, Rialto, San Dimas, San Gabriel, San Juan Capistrano, San Marcos, San Ramon, and Sunland received less than \$500,000.

15th in State  
Torrance is the 15th largest city in the State of California. Ranking according to State Controller Robert Kirkwood's official figures:

1. Los Angeles . . . 2,242,901
2. San Francisco . . . 773,337
3. San Diego . . . 590,744
4. Oakland . . . 384,575
5. Long Beach . . . 324,822
6. Sacramento . . . 143,011
7. San Jose . . . 130,579
8. Fresno . . . 123,238
9. Glendale . . . 114,450
10. Berkeley . . . 112,855
11. Pasadena . . . 110,419
12. Richmond . . . 102,644
13. Hayward . . . 93,372
14. Torrance . . . 93,372
15. Burbank . . . 90,976

## Parade Plans Ready For Ranchero Days

The largest parade in South Bay history will be a feature of Torrance Ranchero Days, slated for July 23-27.

The five day celebration sponsored by the Torrance Chamber of Commerce, in cooperation with 28 Torrance civic groups, will be held at the Civic Center.

A grand carnival opens at 6 p.m. Wednesday, July 23, featuring a midway of 18 thrill rides, military exhibits, skill games and food booths, operated by Torrance organizations. All net proceeds of the event will go to the Torrance Tournament of Roses Asia for the local entry in the New Year's Day Classic in Pasadena.

Thursday night will parallel the Wednesday schedule but on Friday an Aquasade sponsored by the Recreation Department, will be presented at the municipal plunge.

Saturday's events will open with the parade, starting at 10:30 a.m. at Cabrillo Ave. and Carson St. The route will be north on Cabrillo to Sartori northwest on Sartori to Torrance Blvd. and west on Torrance to the Civic Center (Maple Ave).

Hundreds of individual horse entries, many mounted groups, 12 bands, 18 majorette corps, and many floats will make up the line of march. I. D. C. Cook of the police department, is in charge of this event.

Officers said the safe had been opened, but that the burglars evidently became frightened when an alarm went off in the strong box, causing the thieves to flee without their loot. Detectives found the safe cracking tools after investigating the alarm.

## Safe Opened By Burglars

Burglars broke into a local restaurant, 4029 W. Pacific Coast Hwy., and escaped with nearly \$250 in change, police reported Tuesday.

Officers said the safe had been opened, but that the burglars evidently became frightened when an alarm went off in the strong box, causing the thieves to flee without their loot.

Detectives found the safe cracking tools after investigating the alarm.

## VAN WAGNER TO HEAD CITY-TO-CITY COMMITTEE

Sam Van Wagner, owner of Van's Maple Shop, was named chairman of a civic committee organized here to promote international goodwill under the sponsorship of the U. S. Information Agency at a meeting in the city hall Monday night.

Selection of a city similar to Torrance for exchange of cultural, industrial, and commercial visits is the key to the program, Van Wagner said. Other committee members include Robert Ellis, vice chairman; Mrs. Edward Kay, secretary; Del Anderson, representative of Torrance retail merchants; William Long, Torrance Mens Club; H. G. Key, Jr., Chamber of Commerce; and Mrs. Kenneth McCoy, Torrance Council PTA.

will be held in two weeks to discuss selection of a "sister city." Van Wagner announced. Sentiment at Monday's meeting appeared to favor a Latin American city.

City manager, George W. Stevens made a strong bid for selection of a South American city, endorsing such a suggestion made by Library Council member William Hanson. "I'm in favor of a South American city," Stevens said. "Because Latin Americans should be our best neighbors. They seem to be helping us."

A Penny for your Thoughts

A Los Angeles psychiatrist's first meeting in L.A. that the readers of mystery stories were a special class of people, generally out of mental balance in a number of ways.

Being an avid mystery fan, the HERALD's "penny man" went out to see if he was alone in his rejection of the psychiatrist's pronouncements. The answers:

Joe Yates, 910 Faysmith Ave., engineering inspector:  
"The guy is CRAZY . . . 'teched' in the head. He needs to spend some time on his own couch, and let some other psychiatrist ask HIM some questions."

M/Sgt. Jack H. Amberssoe, Army Recruiter:  
"I disagree with the man very much. I think fiction mysteries are very good entertainment."

Agatha Christie and others write a very good book. He might have been referring to detective magazines."

Deas Berkidul, market operator, 2111 Torrance Blvd.  
"Mystery fans are a cross section of everybody that reads. Some people enjoy them, others don't."

Betty Burdick, 1203 Cranbrook Ave., YMCA secretary:  
"No mystery fans are not cracked. They read mysteries for pastimes and enjoy them. They are a lot of fun."

Frank Tarale, Hawthorne street and supply clerk:  
"He's wrong and I'll have to disagree with his statement. Reading of mystery books is done for enjoyment and relief."

"I like them myself and really enjoy them."