

# Week-End Accident Toll Heavy

LARGEST HOME DELIVERY BY FAR  
IN THE GREATER TORRANCE AREA

California's Greatest Semi-Weekly - Every Sunday and Thursday

## Torrance Herald

OFFICE AND PLANT AT 1619 GRAMERCY AVE., TORRANCE

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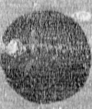
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TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 1958

36 PAGES

# CITY TO SUE 450 HOMEOWNERS

**A Penny for your Thoughts**



With Fire Prevention Week set for Oct. 5 to 11, your HERALD photographer thought it would be timely and informative to ask six members of the Torrance Fire Department: "What do you think is most important in fire prevention?"

**Capt. Walter West, Torrance Fire Department officer:**

"I think it most important to educate the public in fire dangers present in their homes. I also think the cooperation of the public is important in removing fire hazards."

**Stan Sellers, Torrance Fire Department engineer:**

"I think that periodic home inspections by residents is most important in spotting potential hazards and is most important in the prevention of fires."

**Bill Tinsley, Torrance Fire Department fireman:**

"I think poor storage and inflammable junk in garages and other unventilated areas is the biggest fire hazard and a condition that should be done away with by the public themselves."

**Bill Clotier, Torrance Fire Department fireman:**

"I think the most important prevention of fire is to train children to respect fire. A healthy respect for the dangers resulting from fires is a good basis for their prevention."

**Bob Ward, Torrance Fire Department fireman:**

"Carelessness in smoking and with matches is the cause of many fires and caution in handling both is a prevention of fires. I also think faulty drop cords and electrical wiring is another big hazard."

**Ray Hawk, Torrance Fire Department fireman:**

"I think general carelessness and not keeping children away from matches and open fires are things fire prevention should stress as important."

### AFTER WOMAN DIES

## City to Cite Signal Needs

North Torrance residents renewed their fight for traffic control signals at Artesia Blvd. and Arlington Ave. this week after a 63-year-old Gardens woman died Saturday night as the result of injuries suffered at the intersection in a traffic collision.

Dead was Mrs. Idrea Plan, of 1926 W. 160th St. who died Saturday night at Harbor General Hospital of head injuries suffered in the crash.

Her husband, Axel, also 63, who was driving, and the other driver, Edsworth Molder, 49, of Hermosa Beach, were treated for minor injuries.

Police said Plan pulled out from a stop sign into the path of the Molder auto. He was cited for failing to yield the right of way.

**RESIDENTS HAVE** sought to have traffic control signals installed at the intersection since the former 174th St. was made into a through highway and renamed Artesia.

Efforts of residents and of the city to get signals there have been turned down by the State Division of Highways in the past.

**APPEARING BEFORE** the city council Tuesday was Eddie Coco, of 2313 W. 181st St. who said he had tried to get approval of signals for the intersection 18 months ago.

"During the past three years, the accident rate at that corner has increased at a startling rate," he told councilmen. Coco cited the accident rate at the corner, saying that the rate had tripled in just the past year.

**THE COUNCIL** ordered a resolution prepared citing the accident statistics of the location after City Engineer Ronald Bishop reported that the state had just notified him within the past few days that a new study of the signals along Artesia Blvd. had not been completed.

Renewed efforts as a result of Saturday night's fatal crash will be made, North Torrance residents reported.

In other week-end accidents, two boys were injured seriously Sunday, according to police.

**INJURED WHEN** a bicycle



**SOUND ADVICE . . . "Don't Follow Me—I'm Lost,"** the bumper sticker on the car said . . . and it was uncannily prophetic. Seventeen-year-old Barbara Pedrick, a North High School student, told police the brakes grabbed when she tried to dodge some children in the street. The car climbed the curb, took out a parkway tree, crashed through a masonry wall, and into the home of Mrs. Val Schneider at 2635 Dahannah, Tuesday afternoon. Here Mrs. Schneider and her son, Jan, inspect the damage. (Herald Photo)

## Surprise Move to Cancel Civil Service Law Fails

A surprise move to kill the recently adopted civil service ordinance which made major changes in the manner of appointing members to the board went down to defeat here Tuesday as the council tied in a 3-3 vote on the matter.

Introduced by George Bradford near the close of the meeting the motion to rescind the recently adopted law was backed by his colleagues, Nick Drake and Willys Blount. A motion to table it was defeated by the same three.

With Mayor Albert Iven still

at a mayors convention in New Orleans, Councilman Bob Jahn filled in the mayor's chair Tuesday. He was joined by Victor Benstead and J. A. Beasley in defeating the civil service move.

**IN OTHER** action, the council held until Oct. 14 a recommendation to employ a paraprofessional for switchboard operations at the central fire station.

They also deferred action on a recommendation that fire and police officers be required to serve a full year's probation

prior to permanent appointment. The current requirement is six months probation.

Request of Boy Scout Explorer Post 752-X for permission to paint house numbers on curbs throughout the city was granted on the recommendation of the council.

(Continued on Page 13)

## Small Claims Action Ready

Small claims proceedings against about 450 Torrance homeowners are being readied and will be filed in South Bay Municipal Court next week, it was revealed here yesterday by Jerome Scharfman, city finance officer.

The claims are for collection of the city rubbish fees of \$1 a month first levied last Oct. 1.

"About 450 accounts out of a total of approximately 23,000 have not paid any collection fees since the program was started last October," Scharfman said.

The fees for collection of combustible rubbish and trash were set by the city council at \$1 a month to be collected quarterly in advance.

Payment of the delinquent fees will still be accepted this week without penalty, Scharfman said.

He emphasized, however, that once the claims are filed in court, the filing costs and other court costs will be added to the costs.

The average extra cost will be about \$5, he estimated.

"These are legitimate claims, and if a judgment is issued in favor of the city when they get to court, the city can put a lien on the personal and real property of the homeowner to collect," Scharfman said.



**JOHNNY JOHNSON** . . . Kiwanis President

## Kiwanis Chooses Johnson

Johnny Johnson, of 2709 Gramercy Ave., was elected president of the Kiwanis Club at a dinner meeting at Capri's Monday evening. Johnson succeeds Kenneth Anderson to the office.

Active in the Torrance chapter of Kiwanis for the past nine years, Johnson previously held the positions of second vice president and third vice president. He is married and the father of three daughters.

Other elected officers are: Ray Noel, first vice president; Tommy Wilkes, second vice president; and C. J. Meadway, treasurer. Directors named included Paul Shinoda, Don Hitchcock, Dr. Marvin Brain, Dr. Allen Hofferber, and E. S. Avera.

## EL CAMINO PRESIDENT WELCOMED

Dr. Stuart E. Marsee, El Camino College president, was officially welcomed to Torrance this week when Mayor Pro-Tem Willys Blount presented him with a key to the city during the September breakfast meeting of the Chamber of Commerce.

Dr. Marsee was featured speaker at the monthly meeting, and spoke on a national Chamber of Commerce research report which showed that standards of living rose in proportion to the amount of education received.

## Madcap Fever Spreading As Merchants Plan Sale

Downtown Torrance merchants will swing their shoulders at precisely midnight when Tom Duggan presses a button on the end of his Channel 13 television show that night. As he presses the button, the searchlights throughout downtown Torrance will light up.

**ADDING A NOTE** of hi-tink to the affair will be appearance of local merchants on the Duggan show, plugging the event and their own establishments.

Red flannel nightgowns may be the uniform of the evening for most merchants, if rumors are right.

Other activities throughout the early morning sale will include dancing in the streets, fashion shows, square dance competition, and lots of refreshments. Noble Speer will call the square dance.

**THERE WILL** be plenty of coffee and doughnuts, and it is reported that some of the firms may even make a champagne flight out of the affair.

And, sponsoring merchants report the parking meters will be "out of order" throughout the sale.

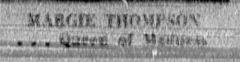
The activities will be launched at precisely midnight when Tom Duggan presses a button on the end of his Channel 13 television show that night. As he presses the button, the searchlights throughout downtown Torrance will light up.

Take, as an example, the merchant who is planning to sell phonograph records at 3 cents each . . . on the one who is going to sell nationally advertised wrist watches for a buck.

Three hours of that kind of pricing could clean out a sizable store.

The fever for the Midnight Madness appears to be spreading all week, according to Del Nadreau, chairman of the Sept. 27 event. They've even named a queen—Miss Margie Thompson, Torrance beauty.

**THE STORES** will open their doors at midnight, Saturday, Sept. 27, and will stay open for three hours, as shoppers are given the chance to participate in one of the annual sales stunts ever cooked up.



**MARGIE THOMPSON** . . . Queen of Madcap

## Moore Rites Slated Today

Funeral service is slated for 2 p.m. today for George H. Moore, 96, of Wilmington, who represented the Shoestring Strip on the Los Angeles City Council from 1940 until 1951.

Moore died at Long Beach, Tuesday, after an illness of more than a year.



**JAYCEE PRESIDENT HERE . . .** Robert Cox, president of the U. S. Junior Chamber of Commerce (second from left) is shown chatting during brief visit here Tuesday evening with Robert Barz (3), president of the Torrance club; A. M. "Red" Ghabremani, California president; and Fred W. Mill, president of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce. Tax was given a key to the city by Mayor Pro-Tem Willys Blount. (Herald Photo)