

SWANK CLUB RAZED . . . Flames which were first spotted about 3:30 a.m. Thursday destroyed a large section of the plush Hollywood Riviera Beach Club before nine fire companies from Torrance and Redondo Beach could subdue the blaze. One of the few undamaged parts of the building was the neon "Cocktail" sign at extreme right. (Herald Photo)



BATTLE BLAZE . . . Firemen struggle to hold high pressure hose during height of firefighting operations early Thursday at the Riviera Club. The swim pool was one of the dry spots of the building when it was all over. It had been drained. (Herald Photo)



TENSE SCENE . . . Operator of the club, Norton B. Wisdom (center) had to be restrained by friends at the height of the blaze. Wisdom attempted to enter the burning club several times to recover possessions. He reportedly lost a \$10,000 personal wardrobe in the flames which swept through apartments, cocktail lounges, and kitchen facilities of the building. (Herald Photo)

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Torrance Herald

OFFICE AND PLANT AT 1619 GRAMERCY AVE., TORRANCE

TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 1958

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A Penny for your Thoughts

When the Steve Hendersons' neighbors thanked the HERALD photographer for the picture and story on their house painting party that ran in this newspaper last Sunday it suggested a good topic for this column. The question asked six people who participated in the surprise redecorating was: "Why are the people on Evelyn Ave. such good neighbors?"

Herbert Williams, 22427 Evelyn Ave.
"It pays to be a good neighbor as you might need help yourself some day. Besides it is fun doing things for friends and it makes friendship stronger and brings people closer together."

Cliff Elmer, 22421 Evelyn Ave.
"In a new neighborhood we all have to help each other. This is the way we get things done. We feel our street is a little community of its own and we have a small town friendliness."

Iona Kleist, 22421 Evelyn Ave.
"A person never knows when they will need a good loan themselves. If we don't help others we won't get help when we need it. We have always been this way in this block. We stick together. Why not? We are all friends."

Ann Kleist, 22420 Evelyn Ave.
"We all have the same interests in this street. We believe in a happy home and a love for God. We just couldn't wait any way when one of us needs a helping hand. It is just the kind and friendly thing to do."

Al Maher, 22508 Evelyn Ave.
"We like people and like to treat them the same way as we like to be treated. One gets more out of life this way. It

BUDDY SHOOTS 17-YEAR-OLD AFTER NEIGHBORHOOD FEUD

Dr. Stevenson Early Torrance Physician Dies

Dr. Arthur P. Stevenson, who took down his shingle after 50 years of practice last year, died early yesterday at Torrance Memorial Hospital. He was 73.

A resident and practicing physician in Torrance for more than 35 years, Dr. Stevenson delivered the first baby born at Torrance Memorial Hospital, and at the time of his retirement in May 1957, estimated that he had seen 100,000 patients during his practice. He maintained offices at 1311 1/2 Sartori Ave. for 25 years.

Youth Shoots Friend

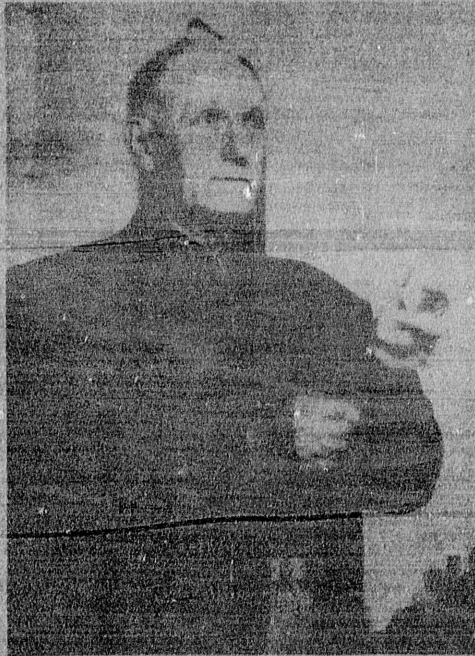
A 17-year-old Ladeene Ave. boy was killed by a blast from a .410-gauge shotgun on the doorstep of a friend yesterday afternoon to climax a feud which had developed during the preceding night and morning.

The lad, whose identity had not been revealed by police late yesterday, was rushed to Harbor General Hospital and was still in surgery at the latest report obtainable by the HERALD. His condition could not be determined.

HELD FOR questioning was a 16-year-old lad, described as a friend of the wounded youth.

Juvenile Sgt. Gus Beth which said the incident was apparently the outgrowth of a fight earlier in the day when the victim and the younger sister of the youth accused of the shooting were scrapping. The 16-year-old lad jumped to the defense of his sister and killed the 17-year-old youth.

Jeanie Maher, 22508 Evelyn Ave. "I guess we just started out doing things for each other when we all first moved into this tract five years ago. We had the same problems of getting started and they grew into real friendship."



DR. ARTHUR P. STEVENSON
Pioneer Torrance Physician Dies

IN FINAL LETTER

Pilot Planned Disappearance

A 35-year-old Redondo man who has been missing since he flew from Torrance Municipal Airport Monday in a rented plane may have planned to vanish, according to a letter received by his wife, officials reported this week.

Arnold Ross, of 5033 Dorsey Ave., failed to return Monday after renting a light plane from a Collins-Dietrich Air Services at the airport for an hour flight.

His wife told officers yesterday that she had received a letter postmarked Monday which said he intended to disappear because he was a pilot.

"I don't want to burden anyone with my life or death and I intend to disappear," the letter was quoted.
Mrs. Ross said she had not heard from her husband otherwise since he left for the airport at 10:30 a.m. Monday.
A search for the light plane was launched Wednesday by the Civil Aeronautics Authority and the Coast Guard. The search after contents of the letter were disclosed.
Ross is a former Navy pilot.

Spectacular Fire Ruins Roaring '20s Landmark

Ruins of a blaze which destroyed much of the swank Hollywood Riviera Club here early Thursday morning were still being probed by arson investigators at week end and a definite report of findings may be available by Tuesday. The HERALD was told yesterday.

The blaze, which routed four occupants of the club shortly after 3:30 a.m. Thursday, was subdued after four hours of fighting by nine companies of Torrance and Redondo Beach fire departments.

The fire was apparently spotted by Burton Noel, 43, who occupied one of the second story apartments. He awakened Harry Schaffer, 73, Robert Hodges, 49, and Julie Hays, 26. Most of them claim to have lost most of their personal possessions in the inferno.

THE THREE-STORY clubhouse, constructed at a reported cost of \$200,000 in 1928, was the center of local controversy during recent months as the cities of Torrance and Redondo Beach who share jurisdiction over the place sought to put an end of the all-night jam sessions which had been the source of complaints by nearby residents.

Losses at the club have been placed unofficially at approximately \$500,000. FIREMEN SAID the fire started in the northwest wing of the club. Fire destroyed the wing and its three bars.

two bedrooms, a kitchen, and living quarters. Extensive smoke and water damage was reported throughout the remainder of the large building. The flames aroused hundreds of neighboring residents who swarmed into the street, many of them clad in night clothes.

FIREMEN UNDER the direction of Torrance Chief J.J. Benner and Redondo Chief Clarence E. Suncy finally succeeded in subduing the stubborn blaze about daybreak.

Torrance's \$5,000 aerial ladder, purchased three years ago, was used to reach the top of the building.

HERALD'S PUBLISHER REPORTS FROM EUROPE

The people of The Netherlands have made an amazing recovery from the devastation which visited them during the invasion of the Nazi hordes in World War II. HERALD Publisher King Williams reports.

Now touring Europe with a special committee of the National Editorial Assn., Publisher Williams gives HERALD readers a first-hand glimpse of life in The Netherlands in his first report published today on Page 4.

After visiting the Brussels World's Fair this week, the study group will go to Paris to witness the constitutional election which is just starting.

For the first of his reports from Europe, turn to Page 4.



HIGH TIDE . . . Five past presidents of the North Torrance Civic Improvement Assn. showed up yesterday to congratulate King Williams' first woman elected president of the homebrew group in its 15-year history. From

the left are Clint Gordon, John G. I. Crain, John Koston, Mrs. Clark, Jack White, and Burt Johnson. Mrs. Clark will take over the office officially next Thursday evening. (Herald Photo)