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# WIFE DIES IN SHOTGUN BLAST; MATE HELD ON MURDER CHARGE

### A Penny for your Thoughts

The HERALD photographer asked six people he met in Torrance last week this question: "How will you vote on Proposition 13 Nov. 4?" Their pictures and answers are below.

**Mrs. Paulette Kopp,** lay instructor at the Nativity Catholic school: "I think it would be un-American to vote in favor of Proposition 13. I also believe this is proven in that no other state in the Union taxes schools."

**H. E. Allen,** Inglewood plastic die manufacturer, Methodist: "With the billions spent annually for public schools, I feel that private institutions in the lower educational divisions are superfluous, but I still won't vote taxation on them."

**Mrs. Sidney Brown,** housewife, 1730 243 St., Christian Scientist: "I certainly would not vote to tax any school of any denomination. I feel that with our crowded public school conditions it is well that we do have church sponsored schools."

**Jack McVey,** El Monte truck driver, Catholic: "That's a silly question. How will everyone vote on Proposition 13? No course. Why I don't believe the guy who dreamed up this tax law will even vote for it."

**Miss Kathryn Francis,** Compulsion, office clerk, Church of Christ: "I will vote yes on Proposition 13 as I think these schools should pay their share. To vote yes will stop violation of American separation between church and state."

**Harold Raff,** Hollywood jewelry salesman, no religion: "I have no particular faith, but my children go to a school operated by the church my wife attends. I think they get a better education there and I pay public school taxes, too, but I will vote no."

## For 1960 Ballot: Mayor Revives Park Bond Bid

A proposal that the flame charred Riviera Beach Club still be considered as a possible site for a regional youth center was voiced by Mayor Albert Isen at this week's council meeting.

Rebuilding of the club facilities as a cooperative effort between Torrance, Redondo Beach, and the County might solve the problem, Isen suggested.

His proposal came during comments that the city needed to plan seriously for its park and cultural development now.

He suggested that a bond issue might be placed on the 1960 municipal ballot to pay for development of existing city park sites, and the construction of an auditorium, little theater, crafts rooms, and lighted tennis courts at the civic center. He also suggested that Walteria Lake might be reclaimed for recreational purposes and recommended that the matter be studied.

**HE SCORED** the apathy of Torrance voters on recent bond issues for park development, saying the lack of public support was hampering the need park program of the city. "If we have to depend on the general tax funds to develop our parks, we're going to be a long time getting them," he warned.

In other action at the Wednesday night council meeting, the city dads backed off from a proposal to create a traffic circle in front of Torrance High School where Carson St. now follows sharp turns around a park.

**AN ENGINEERING** department plan which would have replaced the square with the circle was objected to by residents of the area who said the parking in the area would be cut from 38 to 22.

The council indicated that directional signs pointing out the directions taken by Carson St., the only through street in the area, might be the solution. The councilmen also heard from residents of the Victoria Knolls area who complained about the city's decision that the council held no responsibility for the seepage which is threatening to undermine several homes along Portobello Drive.

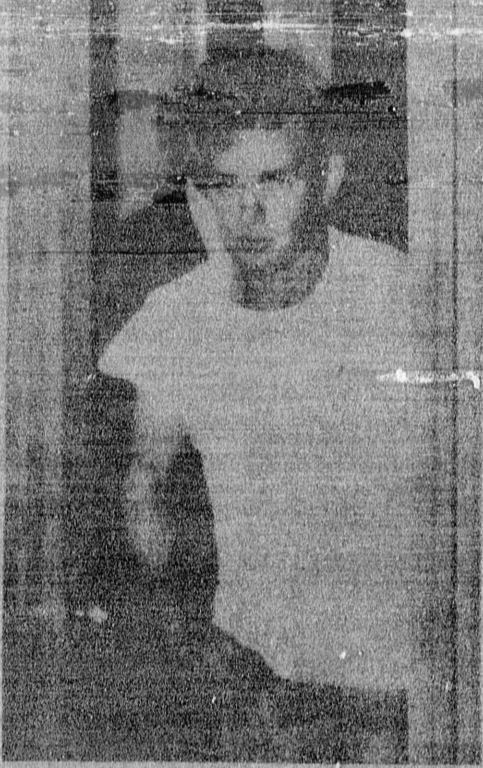
**ANDREW FEMETE,** 2745 Lodiway Drive, who spoke for the Torrance Hills Homeowners Assn., said the problem was too big for the homeowners and that residents of the area needed help.

Several members of the council reiterated earlier statements to the effect that the city could not spend public funds to benefit a limited area.

A study by the city attorney and city engineer was ordered in an effort to fix the responsibility for the problem.

The homes are built on fill land, and water seeping underground from higher properties threatens to destroy at least two homes on the bluff area, spokesmen said.

An engineering study was made recently by a private firm to trace the seepage.



**HELD IN SLAYING** - Kenneth Crane, 29-year-old longshoreman, is being held by police on suspicion of slaying his 27-year-old wife here Friday night. Mrs. Crane died when a blast from a .12-gauge shotgun tore into her chest at the couple's home at 22916 Cabrillo.

## Quarrel Over Money Blamed

A young mother of three whose children had returned a short time before from a Halloween evening of "trick or treat" throughout the neighborhood was killed by a blast from a shotgun here Friday night. Her husband is being held by police on suspicion of murder.

Dead was 27-year-old Mrs. Joan Crane. She was lying on the living room floor, her chest torn open by the savage blast of a shotgun.

Needing officers at the door when they raced to the home at 22916 Cabrillo Ave. was her husband, Kenneth, 30, who asked them to call an ambulance.

**AN ARGUMENT** over his drinking and over household money during the evening had caused him to decide to move out, Crane later told detectives. He said he was packing to leave out of the house when he came upon a .12-gauge shell for his shotgun. He loaded the gun, put it over his arm, and went into the living room, he said. His wife grabbed the gun and it discharged, he reported.

**HE MAINTAINED** that he did not even have his finger on the trigger, detectives said. Investigators later found a copy of a book entitled "Ideal Marriage" in the couple's bedroom. They said she apparently had read about half of the book, judging from a placemark.

**TWO OF THE** couple's three children, Steven 8 and Teresa 7, were in their bedrooms when the shooting occurred. They told officers that they had heard their parents quarreling loudly before the shot. The children were later taken to Long Beach to stay with their grandparents, where their brother, Michael, 11, had been staying.

The couple had apparently returned home a short time before the tragedy after going to a bar for several drinks. The children had been out "trick or treating" during their absence. The argument, because heated after their return home and was ended in the sharp blast of the shotgun.

Mrs. Crane was rushed to Harbor General Hospital where she was pronounced dead on arrival.

Police described Crane as a longshoreman, and said his wife had been a part-time real estate saleswoman.



**MRS. JOAN CRANE** Dies in Blast

## Businessmen To Talk to High Schools

Business students in Torrance's three high schools will learn about such topics as public utilities, banks, insurance, installment buying, discount buying, and marketing in a series of talks to be given by local businessmen.

The once-a-month talks will give students more information on various phases of business from men actually in the field, according to Lyle Albro, curriculum coordinator.

James Becker and Stanley Smith of the Southern California Gas Co. started the talks on Monday, Oct. 27, with a discussion of "Public Utilities" at all three high schools.

Other speakers and their topics include: Harold Frenz, Bank of America, "Banks and Banking," Nov. 24.

Bill King, General Casualty Co. and Newell Larsen, Provident Life Insurance Co., "Insurance," Dec. 6.

Mott Farrell, Public Finance Co., "Installment Buying" and Dick Landauer and Harvey Bedford, Certi-Bond, "Discount Buying," Jan. 12.

Speaker yet to be named, "Grocery Marketing," Feb. 18.

**AIR FORCE NOTE** - The Air Force will offer commissions to a limited number of college graduates next year in a new program announced here this week. Information will be available through Air Force recruiting offices.

## Tracing Torrance History

### Dominguez Name Often Linked to State History

*(This is the second of a series of articles tracing the background of the land on which the city of Torrance and its neighboring communities are located. In today's article, we find the name Dominguez, familiar to all who live in this area, can be traced to the earliest of California settlers.—Editor.)*

**By R. C. GILLINGHAM** It is derived from "Domingo", meaning Sunday of Holy Day. Long before the American discoveries, this name was in wide use among all levels of medieval society in Spain. It was borne by the poor farmer, by the wealthy merchant, and even by the royalty.

In the first conquests of Mexico, the name of Dominguez appeared early on the military rosters. As the expansion of Spanish control progressed throughout North and South America during the next three centuries, the Dominguez descendants also kept pace, including the frontier provinces. In the occupation and settlement of Alta California, the same name is found scattered through the annals of the first missions, presidios, and pueblos.

**NEW SHOPPING CENTER SET** Groundbreaking ceremonies for Torrance's newest shopping center will be held at 9 a.m. on Tuesday at the southwest corner of Gramercy Blvd. and 102nd St.

Called North Torrance Shopping Square, the new center will feature quick-stop service stores designed by Wallace White and Matthew John Nolan. The development will exceed \$500,000, the developers say.

**STUDENT OF BAPTIST SEMINARY HEADS CLASS** Ronald B. Murphy, son of Mr. and Mrs. William L. Murphy, of 107 West 226th Place, has been elected president of the college division freshmen class at California Baptist Theological Seminary at Covina.

Murphy is an ex-marine with tours of duty in Korea and Japan. He lives with his wife and infant son, Kim, at 4052 North Vincent, Covina.

## Bales Named To A-I-D Committee

Walter Bales, 2825 West Pacific Coast Hwy., has been elected to represent labor on the Pacific Electric Labor-Management Committee of the railroad's newly formed chapter on behalf of the A-I-D, United Givers Health and Welfare plan.

Sign-ups for the payroll deduct program set being held this week on the Pacific Electric system throughout Southern California.

Bales, a PE employe since 1938, is general chairman, Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen.

**AS MAY** be surmised, most of the Dominguez line in America were soldiers, later becoming settlers and landowners in Southern California, other than military records, this was evidenced by the census reports of the first settlements, and by the names of early rancheros and later claimants to the many disputed over land titles.

In his "Pioneer Register and Index" of early Californians, the historian Bancroft included a list of 24 men bearing the name of Dominguez, other than wives and children, each of whom achieved some prominence during the period from 1769 to 1846. In addition to Juan Jose Dominguez and later descendants primarily involved in this narrative, seven of these were soldiers throughout their lives, five were owners of ranches, and three were government officials.

**ANOTHER** WAS a Franciscan missionary who led a party northwest across the desert from Santa Fe, New Mexico, in 1766, searching for a better overland route from the south to Monterey in California. The remainder were traders, vaqueros, and common laborers. In local history, the particular branch of the Dominguez line associated with the granting and ownership of the Rancho San Pedro was one of the oldest and most prominent.

## TWIN SISTERS REUNITED WITH LONG-LOST FAMILY

Mrs. George Randolph of 742 1/2 Karori Ave. returned last week from Sacramento where she and her twin sister, Mrs. John Sherman of 302 1/2 Pacific, San Pedro, took part in the second reunion in two weeks with the sisters they had been separated from in an Oklahoma City orphanage 41 years ago.

Traveling west for the pair of reunions was an older sister of the twins, Mrs. John Peard of Shawnee, Okla., who had not seen any of her family since they were placed in the institution in 1917.

**THE GET TOGETHER** at the home of Mrs. W. C. Swanson in Sacramento was the last link in a chain of circumstances which began during vacation season last year in Oklahoma.

Mrs. Randolph, who has resided in Torrance since 1941, returned to Oklahoma City on a vacation trip last summer. While there she learned that Mrs. Peard had at one time lived in Shawnee.

The story she inserted in a Shawnee paper appeared while Mrs. Peard was also on vacation out of town. It was while she was discarding papers which had accumulated in her absence, that she came across the story and picked up the threads of her family life.

**ALSO PLACED** in the orphanage with the sisters in 1917 was a brother, Roy Moore, who died in 1937 following a stevedore accident in San Pedro. Mrs. Randolph is employed at Hughes Aircraft. Randolphs work at the Navy yards.

# Don't Forget To Vote On Tuesday!