

Fourth Grader Takes Short Cut, Dies on Highway

LARGEST HOME DELIVERY BY FAR
IN THE OCEANIC TERRITORIES AREA

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Torrance Herald

OFFICE AND PLANT AT 1619 GRAMERCY AVE., TORRANCE

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MOTHER HELD FOR MURDER TRY

Feeds Drugs To Children

A 32-year-old mother in Torrance was held by Torrance police yesterday on suspicion of murder after she allegedly attempted to kill her two children with barbiturates and take her own life.

Mrs. Virginia Leigh Gordon, of 4918 Paseo de Paven, was jailed Tuesday night after receiving emergency treatment. Her two children, Chas. Leigh, 4, and Douglas, 12, were reported out of danger at Harbor General Hospital.

Detectives Myles Hamilton and Wally Nitz said Mrs. Gordon and the two children were found by a neighbor after their absence had been noticed during the day. The three were in a semi-conscious condition, the officers reported.

The mother and her children were taken to a medical center for emergency treatment, then the children were admitted to Harbor General Hospital for observation.

Investigating officers reported that Mrs. Gordon and her husband, Millard Gordon, an engineer, were in the process of being divorced. She was apparently dependent because of this and because a part time job she had was not working out.

Mrs. Gordon reportedly administered feeding barbiturates to her two children after dinner Monday, telling the kids, "I'm giving you magic pills," and telling the boy they were "anti-flu" pills.

After the children had lapsed into a coma, she took some pills herself, then placed her wrists with a razor, she reportedly told Hamilton and Nitz.

Gordon was out of the city at the time of the alleged murder-suicide attempt, and was notified at the airport yesterday when he returned.

Officers said Mrs. Gordon apparently had no remorse for her actions.

"I'm not sorry I did it," she was quoted. "This is not a fit world in which to raise children."

Police are preparing formal charges to be filed against the woman.

Walteria Lad Hit By Auto

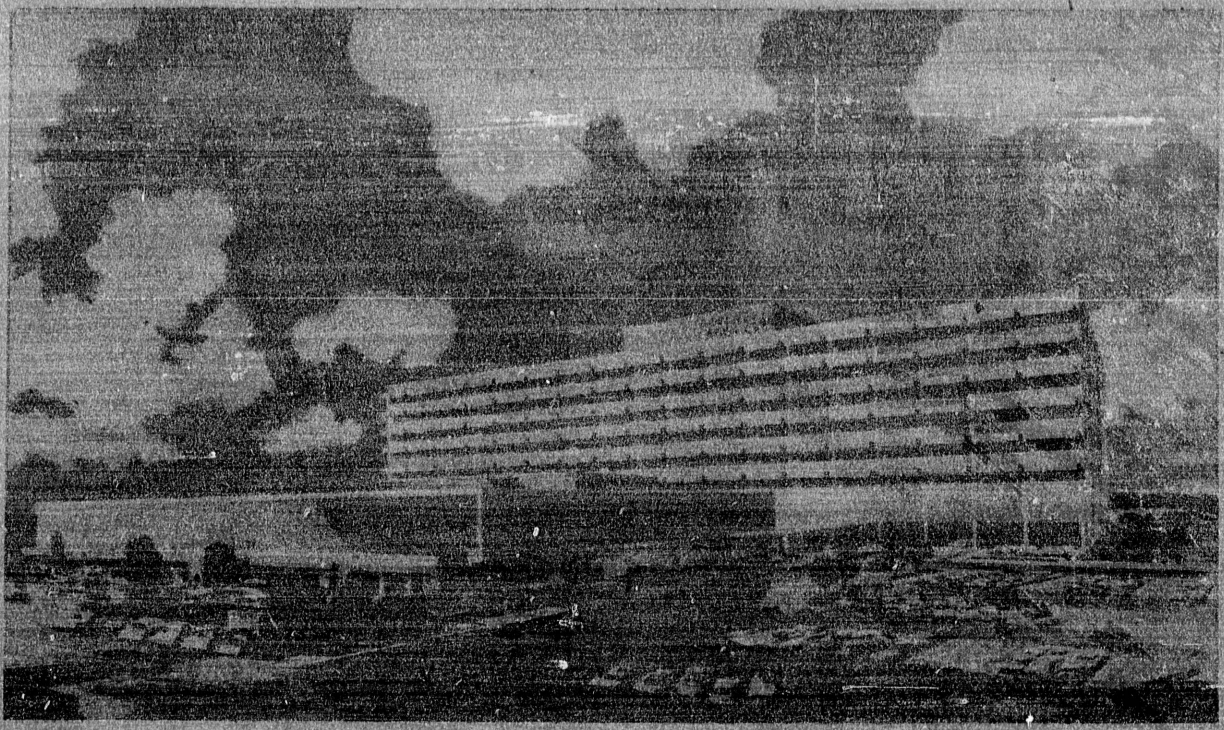
A nine-year-old fourth grader, racing to beat his friends home, died of injuries received Tuesday afternoon when he tried to take a short-cut across Pacific Coast Hwy. in Walteria.

Robert Plunkett who attended Walteria Elementary School, was struck by an auto driven by Melvin Carson, 25, of Compton as he tried to cross Pacific Coast Hwy. near Mission St. His companions had gone up to Hawthorne Ave. to cross with the signal and crossing guard, investigating officers were told.

The youngster died about four hours after the accident. Graveside services for the lad will be held at 2 p. m. tomorrow at the Green Hills Memorial Park with Rev. O. W. Fish of the Western Assembly of God Church officiating. A. M. Gandy, mortuary of Lomita, is handling final arrangements.

He was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Plunkett of 23561 Madison St., and is survived by a brother, William; two sisters, Bonnie and Betty; his paternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. J. Plunkett of Calistoga; and his maternal grandmother, Mrs. Gertrude Poisson of Torrance.

The Plunkett boy's death was the sixth on city streets this year, the first auto-pedestrian fatality. Nine died on Torrance streets in 1957.



PROPOSED HOSPITAL... Architect's rendering of the new eight-story structure to replace the barracks-type Harbor General Hospital was unveiled yesterday by Supervisor Barlow W. Chace. The supervisors approved preliminary plans for the \$14,000,000 hospital and outpatient clinic Tuesday. Construction should get under way within 12 months according to the architects, Francis J. Ernest of Long Beach, and Paul H. Williams, Adrian Wilson, and Weston Becker, all of Los Angeles.

Board Approves Hospital Plans

Architects appearing before the County Board of Supervisors Tuesday predicted construction of the new \$14,000,000 Harbor General Hospital and Outpatient Clinic would get under way within a year.

Approval of preliminary drawings of the structure was granted by the Board following a motion of Supervisor Barlow W. Chace to have the architects proceed with final plans. The new hospital will be constructed on a 25-acre portion of the existing Harbor General Hospital site located near the intersection of Carson St. and Vermont Ave.

Preliminary plans call for an eight-story structure with an adjoining two-story wing and outpatient clinic to be built of reinforced concrete. Elevated on columns at the first floor, the colonnade structure will enable patients and visitors to enter both the public and admitting lobbies directly from their automobiles.

According to Chace, the planned hospital will contain approximately 400,000 square feet of floor space and the two-story wing will contain an additional 30,000 square feet of space. The outpatient clinic will accommodate 9,000 patient visits a month, Chace added.

The architects are Francis J. Ernest of Long Beach, and Paul H. Williams, Adrian Wilson, and Weston Becker, all of Los Angeles.

These serving two year terms will be Norman J. H. Pagan, Judge Donald Armstrong, Ted Coleman, and Dr. Hull.

A two-week vacation to all the Torrance youngsters to all the youngsters enjoy their Christmas break will start this Friday (Dec. 19) and end on Monday, Jan. 5.

School offices will be open throughout the period except for Thursday and Friday, Dec. 18 and 19, and Thursday, Jan. 1.

A Penny for your Thoughts

"What are you going to ask Santa Claus to bring you this Christmas?" That was the question the HERALD'S inquisitive photographer asked several youngsters accompanying their mothers to downtown Torrance this week. Their answers and pictures appear below:

Ronald and Donald Glagovich, age three, Inglewood. "We want dolls and our sister wants a truck. So we're gonna ask Santa to bring us a dolly AND a truck." Ed. note—Better make it twin dolls, Santa!

Bobby Saunders, age four, 515 Pine Dr. "I want a Mr. Rabbies—he's a turtle, you know—and a holster set to play cowboy. And I'll need a cowboy hat. And a fire engine, too. A BIG one."

Marilyn Casseron, age four, 22539 Vermont St. "I'd like a Betsy-wetsy doll, a real live bear, and guns for my five brothers. No, better make that TWO Betsy-wetsys." Ed. note—That extra Betsy-wetsy will come in handy, Santa. If the bear isn't real good about sharing!

Debra Lynn Martin, age three and one-half, 1534 224th St. "A big bicy-cyle and a Tiny Bears doll. That's about all I want. And Santa can bring my sister Patricia—who's in school now—cause she's bigger than me—he can bring her a Tiny Bears too. And skates."

Maria Cocea, age four and one-half, 4452 W. 170th St. "I know exactly what I want. Yes, Mr. Snippy scissors. I want Snippy Scissors and a Toller Dorer scissor, and a train. Ed. note—When this kid watches T.V., Santa, Yes, Mr.!"

Ronald and Allen Henry, ages 4 and 2, Mt. Laguna. "We don't want the same things. I want a toy car a high with a blue tractor. Or a and a pig with a scope. Ed. note—If you have any leftover lights with blue tractors, Santa, please give me the one. This is my last year!"

Should Be Ready To Go In 1959

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Hull Elected President of Dinner Group

Dr. J. H. Hull, superintendent of the Torrance Unified School District, was elected charter president of the newly organized Torrance Area Executive Dinner Club, it was announced yesterday.

Don Hitchcock and Del Vane were elected first and second vice presidents respectively.

Dean Sears will serve as treasurer and Dick Fitzgerald will hold the secretary post.

Directors serving three year terms are: Councilmen George A. Bradford and Nick Dralo, Sam Levy, Sears and Fitzgerald.

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Lomita's Water Problems Aired

Complaints of low water pressure and impurities in the drinking water provided by the Narbonne Ranch Water Co. No. 2 were voiced Tuesday by nine residents of Southeast Torrance and North Lomita at a hearing held by the State Public Utilities Commission at the American Legion hall in Lomita.

Protesting the alleged odor of the water in question was lambasted the extremely low water pressure.

The appearance of "grit" in the water was cited by Mrs. Juliana Lipowski of 23903 Pennsylvania Ave., who stated that during the past year there has been a complete halt of water service for periods lasting for as much as three hours.

OIL IN THE water was the complaint voiced by Mrs. John Slaughter of 2345 W. 237th St.

Also registering protests were Assemblymen Vincent Thomas, David Jay, Mildred McKelvey, Louise Griffith, Gartrude Rindler, Mary Osborne, and Mrs. Dessie Myers, president of the Lomita Property Owners and Registered Voters Assn.

"Service has grown worse during the past several years," stated L. S. Frazelaker of 24603 Woodward Ave., who alleged that the water contained a sulfide content in excess of government standards, according to an analysis he had made.

A REPORT of Torrance Fire Chief J. J. Reiser to the effect that low water pressure in the company area hampered fighting of a fire was cited by Torrance Building Inspector Lee Schless, who pointed out that he was forced to withhold final approval of three new homes in the area in question due to the low water pressure.

Counter-arguing that "impurities in the customer's lines was responsible for a good part of the trouble," A. B. Cook, manager of the water company, reported that his firm had spent \$50,000 on improvements since it was granted a rate increase five years ago.

Police Plan Bike Auction On Saturday

A bicycle auction will be conducted by the Torrance police department Saturday starting at 9 a. m. It was announced yesterday by Chief Percy Bennett.

A large number of unclaimed bicycles held by police during the past year will be auctioned on an "as is" basis, Bennett said. Many are good bikes, many need repairs ranging from minor to extensive, he said.

Admitted that not all of the improvements had been made, Cook agreed to submit a report on needs and plans on Jan. 26, when the hearing will continue.

Established 50 years ago as a mutual concern, the privately-owned water company supplies an estimated 1150 customers. According to Cook, half of the water provided by his firm is from the Metropolitan Water District and half is from a local well.

Municipal service to the company area, either by purchase or duplication of the firm's private facilities, is currently being considered by Torrance officials. Action will be taken by the water commission after the hearing is concluded.

Five Police Promotions Announced

Five police department promotions, effective Jan. 1, were announced yesterday by Chief Percy Bennett.

Promoted to the rank of lieutenant were Sgt. Bob Wright, Gus Rezniewski and Don Nash.

Promoted to sergeant was Officer Jack Hahn, head of the department's felony warrant detail.

Added to the ranks of police women will be Maxine Hahn, who is being promoted from patrol.

Special Meeting Called On Water Replenishment

Preparatory to the circulation of petitions seeking public approval of a water replenishment district in the West and Central Basins of Los Angeles County, representatives of local service clubs, women's groups, home owners associations, the Chamber of Commerce and other voluntary will meet with the Torrance Water Commission tomorrow at 8 p. m. in the Council Chambers of Torrance city hall.

T. V. Yallon, vice president of the West Basin Water Assn., will address the meeting to explain the need for formation of the water replenishment district.

Members of the district will be to have the rapidly declining underground water levels prevent invasion of salt water into fresh water areas, and insure a safe source in the event of prolonged drought conditions, every state of official representative of the area.

Throughout the Central and West Basins, volunteers are circulating more than 1000 copies of a petition calling for an action to create the replenishment district.

According to Roger W. Hegan, chairman of the Torrance Water Commission, minimum goal of the petition circulators in the Torrance area is 8750.

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Santa Comes Early, Parking Meters Go

Santa Claus paid an early visit to Torrance Tuesday night. He is going to give shoppers a free ride in the city's parking meters.

The city council approved a suggestion by Councilman George Bradford that the city declare a moratorium on parking meter tickets in the downtown area between now and midnight, Dec. 24.

The council also suspended enforcement of the one-hour parking limit which blankets the areas covered by the meters.

Bradford was supported in his request by a majority of the council.

The tickless parking applies only to the areas covered by the meters, according to the council's action.

He recommended the move "to stimulate business downtown," Bradford said. He cited the fact that car families near Torrance were doing the same thing.

The ordinances which enforce parking laws will be given administrative assignments during the moratorium.