

# TORRANCE BUSINESSMAN, TWO OTHERS KILLED IN PLANE CRASH

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## Torrance Herald

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**A Penny for your Thoughts**

With the baseball season entering the pennant stretch, the Pennies photographer asked five area baseball fans, "Do you think Roger Maris or Mickey Mantle will break Babe Ruth's home run record this year?"

Their answers and pictures appear below.

**Mike Paton, 5110 Binderwald Rd.:**

"I think both Mantle and Maris will break the record. The biggest reason is probably the quality of pitching in the American League this year—it's lousy. This is caused by the expansion of the league, but then, too, the American League is generally poorer in pitching."

**Tom Wakefield, 1121 Lomita Blvd., Harbor City:**

"Mickey Mantle will hit 62. Maris will get 58. I think this is probably because of the lack of good pitching in the last three years in the American League. Mantle will break the record because of Maris, too."

**Dean Speed, 2454 1/2 W. 250th St., Lomita:**

"Both Mantle and Maris will break the record, primarily because the opposing team can not afford to walk either one since the Yankees have good, hard hitting men, to back them up. I'd like to see the record broken, too."

**Cal Varner, 500 Esplanade, Redondo Beach:**

"No, I don't think either of them will break the record. The pressure will be too much for them. They might hit more than 60 apiece, but not in the 154 games which will be necessary to break Ruth's record."

**Gregg Peterson, HERALD Sports Editor:**

"I don't think they will break the record. The pitchers will probably make them hit their pitches, or they will walk them. I don't think the American League pitchers will throw them anything to hit."

**Piggy Bank, \$400 Reported Stolen**

Daniel L. Eddy, 1039 W. 190th St., told police that when he family returned from vacation Thursday they discovered a piggy bank containing \$400 had been stolen from his home.

# RAIN AGAIN PELTS CITY

## Sirens Sound In Rain

Strong rains briefly pelted the city during the early morning hours Friday, causing air raid sirens to sound. Police switchboards were flooded here and in Gardena from people wanting reason for sounding the sirens at 3:30 a.m.

The unusual rain storm deposited .02 inches of rain in Redondo Beach and other cities in the area reported rainfall from .03 to .21 inches.

Lights in Redondo Beach went out and Hawthorne Blvd. and other area streets were blacked out.

Thunder and lightning accompanied the brief storm. Weather officials said that the normal rain for this area at this time of year is .01 inches.

Cause of the summer storms is moist air carried inland by southeast winds from the Gulf of Mexico, according to weather officials.



THREE DIE . . . A Torrance fireman and an unidentified helper work to recover the bodies from a single engine, four seat plane which crashed Friday night in a field near the intersection of Lomita Blvd. and Hawthorne Ave. The plane reportedly took off from Torrance Municipal Airport shortly before it came out of a fog and nosed straight into the ground. It did not burn or explode but firemen had difficulty getting the badly mutilated bodies from the wreckage. (Herald Photo)

## Light Plane Crashes Near City Airport

Two Torrance residents and one from Redondo Beach were killed Friday night when their light single-engine plane slammed into the ground in a field northwest of Lomita Blvd. and Hawthorne Ave. intersection.

Killed was the pilot, Stephen Elmer Starkey, 39, of 866 Avenue B, Redondo Beach; Carolyn Rae Farmer, 21, of 3122 Dalemead St., a waitress; and John Perry Streh Jr., 41, of 21513 Linda Dr., who operated the Hickory Stick Bar-B-Q at 3124 Pacific Coast Hwy.

The plane crashed shortly after taking off from the Torrance Municipal airport about a half mile from the scene. Police said the craft apparently came straight down out of a fog which was about 200 feet above the ground.

Friends of Starkey said he was a veteran pilot and had been flying since World War II. Police said cause of the crash is undetermined. Motor of the four-seat plane was buried in the ground and only part of the craft left intact was the tail section.

The crash occurred about 10 p.m. Police said the bodies were badly mangled and barely identifiable. No homes were endangered when the plane crashed but several industrial buildings were nearby.

Mrs. Farmer reportedly had a letter in her purse, from her estranged husband, which said "Come back to me—before it is too late." She is survived by her husband, Boyd L. Farmer, and son, Darrele.

Bodies of the victims were taken to Stone and Myers Mortuary in Torrance where funeral arrangements are pending. Authorities there said it would probably be late today before final funeral arrangements are made.

Civil Aeronautics Board and Federal Aviation agency investigators were on the scene shortly after the crash. The plane did not burn or explode although four units of the Torrance Fire Dept. rushed to the scene.

Motor of the plane had to be pulled from the ground by a 10-ton crane.

## Skindiver Dies Off Peninsula

Earl Richard Keys, 22, of North Las Vegas, died Thursday while skindiving near Marineland off the Palos Verdes peninsula. His air tank became entangled in a fishing net about 2:30 in the afternoon.

A companion diving with Keys, 17-year-old Ted M. Jones, of Hermosa Beach, said he had invited the Las Vegas man to go skindiving after they had met in the Divers' Den in Hermosa Beach.

Keys was warned by Jones to be careful of fishing nets before they dived in the cove. (Continued on Page 11)

## Estate of Drowning Victims Plaintiff in Damage Suit

Suits totaling \$175,000 have been filed by the estates of a Torrance mother and her daughter who were drowned last summer in a boating accident in Long Island Sound, it has been learned by the HERALD.

Henry Makowski of Speonk, N.Y., former husband of Mrs. Wilma T. Grant and executor of the estates, filed the action in Superior Court at Bridgeport, Conn. The suit named the estate of a third person who also was drowned in the accident as defendant.

## Two Hurt In Auto Accident

In fair condition at Little Company of Mary Hospital as a result of a traffic accident at Arlington Ave. and 190th St., Torrance are Rudolph Wahl, 24, of 1567 W. 203rd St., Torrance, driver of one car; and Patricia Simms, 17, Wilmington, passenger in a second auto.

Police identified the second driver as Huldah Bundy, 18, of 3308 W. 186th St., Torrance. She suffered multiple cuts and was released after emergency treatment.

An elderly woman was injured in another car accident. (Continued on Page 11)



TROPHY WINNERS . . . Dora Wahl and Bonnie Yates, members of the Torrance Junior Youth Band, display the trophy the band won in the Old Spanish Days Fiesta Thursday in Santa Barbara. The band won second place for sponsored bands in the senior division and a \$50 cash award. (Herald Photo)

## Familiar Prefixes to Go, Phone Official Announces

The nation's telephone industry is running out of numbers!

Such was the revelation of J. M. White, Palos Verdes district manager for General Telephone Co., as he was explaining the plight of the nation's telephone industry. Having added over 30 million phones to its service rosters during the last 10 years, and still receiving thousands of requests for new service each day, the nation's 3300 telephone companies cannot find enough new numbers to supply congested areas.

For years, according to White, the telephone industry has been assigning numbers in the large cities on a two-letter and five numeral basis. Prefixes were selected for their common, easy to remember names, for example MADison, OWen, or another famous one.

New York City's well known PLaza.

BUT NOW IT appears the industry can find no more usable letter combinations which will form the first two letters of popular words. As a result, White explained, many dial positions are wasted. Take the "5" or "J-K-L" position, for instance. There is no word well-known by everyone having as its first two letters any combination of "J-K-L."

Hence the whole combination is unusable. A glance at the telephone dial will reveal several other wasted combinations, he said.

JUST ABOUT the best solution to the problem is currently being implemented across the country, according to White. Called "All Number Calling," the new process involves replacing the traditional two-letter prefix with its corresponding dial position numbers. For example the EXbrook prefix in Santa Monica would become "39"; San Francisco's famed "China exchange" would be identified by the numbers "98" instead of the well known "YUkon"; and even the President of the United States would lose his famous "NAtional" prefix in Washington in favor of "62."

All Number Calling is scheduled to begin in Palos Verdes during the first part of September of this year. He explained the new system would be installed on a gradual basis with new installations or changes in service, so that all numbers would not be converted from Frontier over night. The new Southern Section telephone directory to be issued in October. (Continued on Page 11)



FORMAL OPENING . . . Mayor Raymond B. Stoney, (left), of Rolling Hills Estates, Torrance Councilman and Chairman of the Inter-Cities Highways Committee J. A. Beasley, (center), and Supervisor Burton W. Chase cut a ribbon marking the opening of Hawthorne Blvd., between Palos Verdes Drive North and Silver Spur Road. The four lane stretch, costing \$600,000 was started in May of last year. (Herald Photo)