

POLICE AIDE ASKS SLANDER, LIBEL DAMAGES FROM D.A.

Your Complete Community Newspaper
Every Sunday and Thursday



Torrance Herald

The Story
Of Christmas
(Page 11)

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MAN PULLED FROM FIERY HOME

Rescuer Goes Into Flaming Room for Man

A 35-year-old Torrance man probably owes his life to the bravery shown by a neighbor early yesterday as flames broke out in his apartment just south of the city limits.

Roland Mohler, who lives at 2273 W. 241st St., was brought out of his residence by James Hackney who braved the flaming apartment to reach the victim. Mohler had been overcome by the smoke in the room.

Witnesses said Hackney, a resident in the same apartment house, passed the stricken Mohler out through the window of the first floor apartment to Beatrice Middlestorb, manager of the apartments.

Los Angeles city firemen who had been called to the scene revived Mohler and then sent him to the hospital for treatment for severe smoke inhalation.

Battalion Chief Ronald King led firemen at the scene. Damage to the apartment was estimated at \$1,500.

Meeting Delayed

Regular meeting of the Torrance Airport Commission scheduled for Dec. 26 has been postponed to Jan. 9 because of the holidays.

Install New Police Assn. President

Ray Silagy was installed as president of the Torrance Police Officers Assn. during ceremonies held last night at the Sizzler Restaurant.

Silagy succeeds Charles Oates in the top post of the association. Other officers include Paul Lembke, treasurer, and James Popp, Robert Dunn, and James E. Davis, members of the board of directors.

Continuing board members are Oates, Jerry Snyder, and Frank Solis.

The association also presented its annual awards during the evening, citing members for their contributions to the association during the year.

A Fourteenth-Century View of The Nativity



A MASTER'S VIEW . . . Matthias Grunewald's conception of the birth of Christ is shown in this nativity panel contained in the Isenheim Altarpiece he executed in 1515. The sparkling tones of the German master's work is one of several renowned scenes of the Christ Child and Mother

which comprises Madonna Row, reproductions of the masterpieces by students at El Camino College under the direction of Mildred Walker. The reproductions are now on display in front of the college's administration building. (Herald Photo)

A Penny for your Thoughts

This week, the Pennies photographer asked five Torrance pastors to share with our readers a thought for Christmas, 1963:

Rev. David Beadles, Waleria Methodist Church:

"Because of the assassination, there is a far more serious attitude toward this Christmas season. People are finding there really is more to Christmas than gift-giving and card sending. Because of this, people are listening for the message of 'Peace on Earth.'"

Rev. H. Milton Sipple, First Christian Church:

"In many lives, Christmas creates a spirit of friendliness, joy, and happiness. It is my hope that this spirit of goodwill that is expressed during the Christmas season will prevail throughout the new year."

Rev. Raymond Tepe, St. Catherine Labouré Catholic Church:

"The measure of our happiness at Christmas is determined by our fidelity to God throughout the year — living our faith everyday and by the faithful fulfillment of our duties as He Himself has ordained for us. Only then can we expect or hope for that peace which the world alone cannot give."

Rev. James Lowen, Four-square Gospel Church:

"The very fact of our observance of Christmas is a reminder of the fundamentals of our Christian faith, and in the liberties that are ours in a Christian nation. Because of the gift of God in His son, Jesus Christ, we have liberty from fear and bondage, not only spiritually but materially if His precepts are followed."

Rev. Hugh Percy, St. Andrews Episcopal Church:

"This is a particularly significant Christmas, coming at the end of a sad period. The lesson we have learned is that out of sadness comes a deeper realization of joy. I believe we cannot come up to joy except first we suffer some pain. The sadness made us realize the truth of this, and this should be one of the happiest Christmases we have had."

Officer Asks for \$550,000

Allegations that he was libeled and slandered by the district attorney's office last September are contained in a claim for damages totaling \$550,000 filed against the county Friday for Mervyn H. Porter, assistant police chief.

The claim was filed last Friday with Gordon Nesvig, clerk of the board of supervisors, and asks that Porter be awarded \$50,000 general damages and \$500,000 punitive damages.

Basis of the claim is the contention that Porter was libeled and slandered by Chief Dep. Dist. Atty. Manley Bowler last September when he assertedly said "there is and was illegal activities and wrongdoings being committed by 'high ranking' members of the Torrance Police Department, or words to that effect."

OTHERS named in the claim filed for Porter by attorney Clifford J. Peterson include the county of Los Angeles, Dist. Atty. William B. McKesson, and the Board of Supervisors.

Porter claimed that as assistant chief of the Torrance Police Department and second in command of the department, he "falls within the category as 'high ranking official.'"

THE CLAIM asserts that (Continued on Page 2)

Want Change for \$5 Bill; Pair Escapes with \$5,000

A couple of bandits armed with guns and a walkie-talkie radio escaped with about \$5,000 Friday after entering a savings and loan association to get change for a \$5 bill.

Samuel Reedy, 34, manager of the Marina Federal Savings and Loan Assn. office at 170th and Hawthorne Avenue, told police two men, each about 50 years old, entered the building

to get change for the \$5 bill. Reedy said the men drew guns after receiving the change and forced him to get down on the floor. A second employe, Mrs. Helen Harrison, 39, was told to sit in a chair.

THE PAIR then forced the bookkeeper, Mrs. Rosalie Mahoney, 40, to fill a paper sack with the words "Season's

Greetings" on the outside with money in the office. While this was being done, one of the men whispered into the walkie-talkie, said Reedy.

Both men fled the office as soon as the sack had been filled. Reedy said he did not hear or see a car, although police believe the radio was used to summon a getaway car.

The men were described by Reedy as about 5 feet 6 inches in height and very similar in appearance. They might have been brothers, he told police.

Playground Hours Set

School playgrounds will be open Dec. 23, 27, 28, and 30, and Jan. 2-4 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve, the schools will open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. They will be open Dec. 26 from 1 to 5 p.m.

Schools which will be open include: Arlington, Casimir, Flavian, Greenwood, Hamilton, Hickory, Hillside, Jefferson, Lincoln, Madison, Madrona, and Meadow Park.

Others are: Newton, Parkway, Perry, Riviera, Seaside, Sepulveda, Towers, and Victory.

WALTERIA PARK will offer supervised activities from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. during the week and from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays.

Holidays Delay Trash Pick-ups

City trash crews will get both Christmas Day and New Year's Day off, reports City Manager Wade Peebles.

Peebles said trash normally picked up on Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday would be delayed one day for the next two weeks because of the holidays.

Monday and Tuesday pick-ups are unaffected by the change.

In The Herald Today

ROYCE BRIER	4	COUNT MARCO	3
CROSSWORD	5	MORNING REPORT	4
DEATHS	2	OBITUARIES	2
DELAPLANE	2	OPINIONS OF OTHERS	5
EDITORIALS	4	PUBLIC NOTICES	12
ART HOPPE	4	SOCIETY	11-12
ANN LANDERS	11	SPORTS	8
LEGAL NOTICES	15	TRAVEL	4
LET'S GO	3	WANT ADS	15-20

... and Still the People Came!

(One month ago today, an assassin's bullets struck down the President of the United States in Dallas, Tex. From the many letters and poems which poured into the office of The HERALD from its readers following the shocking tragedy of Nov. 22, we have selected this tribute penned by Stella Isenhower Flewelling of Torrance, past president of California Chaparral Poets, as an appropriate expression of the grief which we all shared and continue to share as a result of President Kennedy's death. —Editor)

AND STILL THE PEOPLE CAME
... and still the people came!
Through the Great Grecian Facade,
Under the deeply sorrowful gaze
of Abraham Lincoln . . .
Full of grief . . . the people came!
Filed by the catafalque!
Mourning black spread its assassinated calm
Far into the vaulted dome.

John Fitzgerald Kennedy came to his people
with a snow storm,
Flanked by a random wind and Robert Frost's
Beginning age of "poetry and power."
Now he was leaving them . . . a sadder and colder people.

The throngs had been appalled by
The Old Frontier retribution . . . the assassin
had been assassinated!
Yet, in each breast a prayer of hope
lay burning
That brutality and hatred and uncertainty
Would go the way of all lynching
And cease forevermore!

Through Arlington gates rolled the caisson!
Followed by the restless, riderless horse
That sensed the ominous cold
of empty boots and saddle.

So monumental the tragedy . . .
Belief was almost impossible.
Jacqueline had stood in silent majesty
with dry eyes and crying heart

Caroline, her questing gaze filled with wonderment,
depicted, truly, THE AGE OF INNOCENCE.
John John, after complaining he had nobody
to play with and asking,
"May I have another flag—one for my daddy?"
Gave a manly three-year-old salute!

And still the people came.
A grieving, solicitous nation . . .
laying their president to rest.

Somber bagpipes wailed "The Mist Over the Mountain."
Fifty jets zoomed low.
A twenty-one gun salute echoed through the hills.
Mournful strains called taps,
True and clear as the crisp autumn afternoon,
But thoughtful, long and sad as the soft
shadows of late evening.
Vibrant feeling raced through hearts
As grieving navy hands
Made quick folds of Old Glory.
An emotional calm prevailed, as over the
shadow of tragedy
There came a light . . .
The lighting of THE ETERNAL FLAME!

Then God sent His light in golden streams
From the sky, through the trees,
Into Arlington National Cemetery.
As evening shadows lengthened
And the streams of light faded
God wrote the benediction!
And still, the people came!

Stella Isenhower Flewelling