

Cigarette Caused Fatal Blaze

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Torrance Herald

North High Hosts
School Science Fair
(See Page 39)

81st Year — No. 34

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OFFICE AND PLANT, 1619 GRAMERCY AVE — TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 1964

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BANDITS ELUDE POLICE NET

A Penny for your Thoughts

The Pennies photographer asked several people to speculate on the forthcoming political campaign this week when he asked several residents, "What do you think the major issues will be in this year's Presidential election?"

Mrs. Charlton Mewborn, 2211 Torrance Blvd.:
"Civil rights, poverty, and unemployment will be the major issues. I think it is evident we aren't going to go to war this year, and there are some really serious internal problems which we can't ignore any longer."

Mrs. A. W. Adams Jr., 18706 Cerise Ave.:
"Civil rights and the poverty issue which President Johnson has raised will be the major issues. I'm inclined to be conservative about the poverty issue, and I think the answer is on a poster we have at the YMCA—The best helping hand is at the end of your own arm."

Mrs. Sid Gans, 22936 Font-hill Ave.:
"I feel the major issue will be a question of whether or not President Johnson's administration has lived up to the expectations of the American people and the Democratic party. If they feel the administration has, then there won't be much of a contest."

Mrs. Robert Hagenbaugh, 1011 Felbar Ave.:
"I think there are several issues that will be discussed during the campaign—our aid to foreign countries, our foreign policy in general, and President Johnson's war on poverty. And of course, there will be the civil rights issue."

Jack Hanna, 1704 Neptune Ave.:
"The major issue will have to be civil rights and the Republicans are dead unless they can come up with a dark horse who is very strong on state's rights. It's like Governor Wallace getting so many votes in Wisconsin."



FATAL FIRE . . . Frantic efforts of Torrance firemen to rescue two small boys from a blazing North Torrance home early Tuesday morning were unsuccessful. Both boys were found dead in the charred ruins of the home, despite efforts of firemen and the boys' parents, Mr. and Mrs. Edward S. Mitchell. Both parents were badly burned while saving three other children. The fire, which destroyed the home, was caused by a lit cigarette in the davenport. (Herald Photo)

2 Boys Die; Parents Burned in Rescue Bid

Rapidly spreading flames which originated in a davenport destroyed a North Torrance home early Tuesday morning and claimed the lives of two small boys who were sleeping in a back bedroom. Their parents were badly burned while saving three other children asleep in the home.

Battalion Chief Frank Tuttle said the fire "definitely originated in a davenport, probably the result of a burning cigarette." Tuttle said there were no electrical sources nearby which could have started the fire.

Gary and Steven Mitchell, 4- and 6-year-old sons of Mr. and Mrs. Edward S. Mitchell, died in the blazing inferno. Three other children, Linda, 5, Johnny, 3, and Jimmie, 3 months, were rescued by their parents.

BOTH PARENTS suffered first and second degree burns and were taken to Gardena Emergency Hospital. Mitchell was burned over 30 per cent of his body, and his wife suffered burns on her hands and arms. Both were in shock.

Mrs. Mitchell was released yesterday, a hospital spokesman told the HERALD. Mitchell was reported "resting comfortably."

One fireman, Capt. Donald Lamb, suffered minor burns and cuts when he tried to crawl into the house and rescue the two boys. He was treated at Little Company of Mary Hospital and released. Lamb then returned to the scene of the fire.

Four other firemen suffered minor sprains while fighting the blaze, but none left the scene.

A NEIGHBOR, Everett Du-Gay, of 16911 Osage Ave., was awakened by his dog. He told officers he heard a woman screaming and thought she was being attacked nearby.

Another Try Thwarted by Raised Jug

Two bandits who held up a Hawthorne Avenue shoe store Tuesday evening eluded two pursuing clerks and a quickly formed police net in making a get-away with about \$650 in bills taken from the store. A short time later another bandit was thwarted in an attempt to hold up a liquor store in North Torrance when threatened by a bottle-wielding clerk.

Lita McMaster, cashier at a shoe store at 20616 Hawthorne Ave. told police she saw two men enter the store and stop to look at merchandise near the front of the store.

Soon afterward one of the men approached the cashier's counter and said "I've got a gun in my pocket. Give me all the bills."

The victim said she put the money in a bag as ordered by the bandit who then left through the front door with his partner.

A lone would-be bandit was not as successful at the General Liquor Store, 2222 Redondo Beach Blvd. Arthur C. Larson, 66, clerk, told police a man entered the store and said "Give me the money. If you don't I'll blow your head off."

The holdup man jumped the counter as Larson opened the cash drawer. Larson told police he noticed the revolver held by the man appeared as though it might have been a play gun or pellet pistol.

Larson grabbed a bottle, scaring the bandit so much that he ran back around the counter and out the front door.

\$100,000 Raised in 'Y' Drive

Nearly \$100,000 has been raised by the 600 volunteers now canvassing the city for funds to construct the \$570,000 facility for the Torrance Family YMCA, campaign workers were told Tuesday evening.

General chairman George Post told a gathering of the volunteers a total of \$98,474 has been raised, including a gift of \$15,000 from the Torrance Y's Men's Club. The Men's Club donation was earmarked for the campfire circle and patio.

POST ALSO told the group the highest section total so far was turned in by Bill Poser's section—a total of \$13,246. Poser claimed high individual honors with a total of \$1,501. The high division mark was recorded by Mark Throssel's division, which topped 50 per cent of the division goal with a total of \$4,385.

During the six weeks drive, more than 9,000 patrons and friends of the Torrance "Y" will be contacted and asked to give to the campaign. More than 800 volunteers are expected to take part in the effort. (Continued on Page 3)

Student Injured

A 17-year-old North High School student was injured Saturday when a car he was working on in the driveway of his home fell from a jack. Ken A. Maikoski of 16903 Kristin was taken by ambulance to the Ft. MacArthur Hospital.

Edmund T. Pratt Accepts Parade Invitation

Edmund T. Pratt, Assistant Secretary of the Army for financial management, has accepted an invitation from the city and the Torrance Chamber of Commerce to serve as grand marshal at the fifth annual Armed Forces Day Parade.

Pratt is expected to arrive in the city in time for breakfast and a press conference on the day of the parade, Saturday, May 16. As grand marshal, he will lead the parade on its route to the reviewing stand, where he will take up a position on the stand.

After the parade, Pratt will be honored at an invitational luncheon for distinguished Armed Forces Day guests. He also will be the featured speaker at the luncheon.

Pratt is a Magna Cum Laude graduate of Duke University and holds an M.B.A. degree from Wharton School of Finance and Commerce at the University of Pennsylvania.

A veteran of the Navy, Pratt was named Assistant Secretary of the Army in 1963 by the late President Kennedy. He holds the rank of lieutenant in the Naval Reserve.

Prior to his service with the government, Pratt was controller of IBM and was concerned with IBM's business in more than 90 countries abroad.

The parade will march from the downtown area on Torrance Boulevard past the civic center. A reviewing stand will be set up in front of city hall.



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WHS Spring Concert Set For May 7

Eight West High music groups will present a special concert on the West High quad Thursday, May 7, at 7:30 p.m.

The second annual Spring Concert will feature the Warrior Varsity Band, chamber orchestra, dance band, choir, choral ensemble, beginning and advanced girls' glee clubs, and the Dixieland Septet. Donnelly Fenn and Ronald Large will direct the concert.

The concert is free, but reservation tickets will be required for admission. Tickets may be obtained from music students or the Student Activities Office.

The spring concert program will conclude with a special concert edition of "This Is My Country."

In The Herald Today

AFTER HOURS	16	PEG MANNING	16
AMUSEMENTS	40	COUNT MARCO	20
BOOKS	16	CHARLES McCABE	37
ROYCE BRIER	15	JOHN MORLEY	16
CONNOLLY	33	MORNING REPORT	16
JAMES DORRIS	16	OBITUARIES	8
EDITORIALS	16	OPINIONS OF OTHERS	7
ENTERTAINMENT	40	PUBLIC NOTICES	41
WILLIAM HOGAN	16	CLUBS	16
HOLLYWOOD	33	SOCIETY	25-27
ART HOPE	16	SPORTS	37-38
KNOW YOUR TRAFFIC	2	TELEVISION	41-47
ANN LANDERS	25	WANT ADS	41-47
LEGAL NOTICES	41	MARY WISE	34
LET'S GO	4		



Y BOOSTERS . . . Three of the several hundred YMCA volunteers check over campaign material as the organization opens a capital funds drive to provide new quarters for the group's activities. From left are Dr. Rollin R. Smith, Jeanne Clawson, and Juanita Johnson. The group has raised nearly \$100,000 to date. (Herald Photo)

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