

# Shidler, Sleeth Hurt In Head-On Collision | Homes Still Faulty, Homeowners Charge

## 5 Receive Serious Injuries

Seven residents are recovering this week from a spectacular head-on Labor Day crash at 227th st. and Crenshaw blvd. Monday evening which resulted in five major and two minor injuries.

The two cars involved were going north and south on Crenshaw blvd.

Driver of the southbound car was James Shidler, 38, of 23053 Doris Way. Shidler, brother of Judge John Shidler, suffered major injuries, including a fractured dislocation of the left hip, multiple lacerations, and bruises. He was taken to Torrance Memorial Hospital. His condition was said to be good yesterday.

Walteria Postmaster Riding with Shidler was a long-time Torrance resident and present postmaster of Walteria, Robert Sleeth, 34, of 24251 Los Codonas. Sleeth sustained minor injuries, including multiple lacerations and bruises. His condition was said to be good yesterday.

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## ESCAPES AS PLANE EXPLODES

A Torrance airport pilot was alive this week because he abandoned his plane ten seconds before the fuel tank exploded and the plane was consumed by fire.

Marlin Harms, 22, of 118 West Queen street, Inglewood, has just taken his take-off run Monday in a light plane at Torrance Municipal Airport when flames erupted just aft of the engine.

Harms slammed the tail wheel back to the ground and the ship slowed, but before he could get out of the cockpit, the plane had been pushed backward some 20 feet by a stiff wind.

Ten seconds after he jumped clear of the ship and ran to safety the fuel tank exploded and the plane was consumed by fire.

## 'Fancy Meeting You Here!'

Sometimes it takes a newspaper to tell one neighbor what the other one is doing.

Mrs. Phil Waybrant of 1851 W. Pacific Coast highway had a large blower type cooler for sale. She placed the following ad in the Torrance Press classified section:

FOR SALE: Burning Up? Large blower-type cooler. Excellent condition. Chills 2 rooms or trailer. Only \$35.00. Portable typewriter of Axminster carpet for trailer (dark blue). 1851 West Pacific Coast Hwy.

Her next door neighbor had seen the cooler many times. She didn't know that it was for sale, however, until she read about it in the Torrance Press classified section. Naturally, she had a head-start on everyone else and bought the fan immediately.

Remember that a simple, inexpensive ad will inform 28,500 readers of your particular problem. You might even get to know your neighbor in the process!

## School Board OK's New Child Care Center Plan

Some fast last-minute action by the Board of Education assured a group of mothers this week that the child care center will continue in operation at least another year.

A few weeks ago the Board had voted to close the child care center for lack of space. Because a workable plan has been offered by which the care center could continue operating, members of the Board reconsidered the matter at Tuesday night's meeting, voting to accept the new plan.

### New Building

Under the new set-up, children will use a building in Torrance Park, made available through the city of Torrance for this purpose. Originally children met at Torrance elementary school, but the building used for the purpose must now be used for a classroom.

The child care center offers care to children of mothers who are their only means of

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VOLUME VI

119

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 1954 — TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA

10¢

100,000  
READERS

## Inspection Asked By City Council

A group of North Torrance residents who were recently promised that their faulty homes would be corrected by the builder, charged this week that the promised improvements were not made.

About 25 homeowners appealed to the City Council Tuesday night to look into the matter once more.

The residents live in the Crenshaw Gardens area, the builder being Anthony Paravano.

A written report from John Russell, Torrance's temporary building superintendent, gave Paravano a clean bill of health.

"All structural masonry repair and corrections... have been completed and comply with my stipulations and the building code," Russell wrote.

Investigation Asked  
Since there was an apparent discrepancy between Russell's report and that of the homeowners the Council asked that

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## No. Torrance Civic Group Elects Reeves

Newly elected president of the North Torrance Civic Improvement Association is M. Reeves. Reeves was elected at the group's annual election of officers held September 1 at McMaster Hall, 174th street and Yukon avenue.

Other newly elected officers include: Jack White, vice-president; Mrs. W. Throop, treasurer; Mrs. Joseph Prange, secretary, and Clint Beeson, the outgoing president, auditor.

Reeves, who came to Torrance only a year ago, first came to California in 1939 from Kansas City, Missouri. Both he and his wife have taken an active part in the association, serving as members of the board of directors during the past year.



MRS. SHIRLEY KALNAS  
... dies of 5-hr. polio.

## Inquest Asked Of Rare Case

A rare case of polio killed an attractive young Torrance mother of two children within five hours, Tuesday.

Dead is Mrs. Shirley Kalnas, 27, of 811 Pysmith. Mrs. Kalnas was rushed to Torrance Memorial Hospital Tuesday morning at 9:25 a.m.

She seemed well around noon. By 2:20 p.m. she was dead, according to Det. Capt. Ernie Ashton of the Torrance Police Department.

### Rare Case

This case of polio is so rare that an inquest has been asked in order to determine as much as possible about this particular type of disease which struck with such lightning speed. There was no evidence of paralysis, Ashton explained.

Mrs. Kalnas and her husband, Ralph, together with their two children came to Torrance in April of this year. They came from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Kalnas, a field engineer for National Supply, was transferred here as part of the company's training program.

### Complaints of Virus

"This all happened overnight," Kalnas said of the sudden illness and death. "She was bed-ridden Monday complaining of a virus. We brought her to the hospital Tuesday and shortly after she was dead."

The two children are Mike, 22 months, and Becky, 10 months. The Kalnas have no relatives here.

"I'm returning East Friday."

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## Von's Market Specials Start This Week

This issue will introduce Von's market weekly specials in the Torrance Press. To acquaint new residents with Von's location you merely drive up Normandie avenue to Redondo Beach boulevard... it's only a 10 minute drive from the heart of Torrance and there's always plenty of free parking.

## Building Total Thru August Nearly Surpasses All of '53

Torrance's 1954 building pace through the month of August has almost reached the building total for all of 1953, which was itself a record-breaking year, it was announced this week.

The August total amounted to \$7,321,548, bringing the total for the year so far to \$27,634,732. The total for all of 1953 amounted to \$29,315,265, according to Walter C. Bradford, senior clerk in the city Building Department.

Torrance seems bound to surpass last year's mark, being only two million dollars under that figure.

August's total is more than double that of August, 1953, with its \$3,167,082.

The total for two-thirds of this year has increased by almost \$10 million over last year's eight-month figure.

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## Carson Chamber Appoints Blythe Water Chairman

Henry Blythe was appointed chairman of the Water Resources Committee of the Carson Chamber of Commerce, it was announced by President L. O. Griffiths.

Blythe previously served on the Water Resources Committee which studied the question and approved annexation to the Metropolitan Water District in 1952.

## Car Burglaries



IT'S A SNAP... Det. Capt. Ernie Ashton of the Torrance Police Department hopes to warn residents against leaving valuables in their car by showing them how easy it is for burglars to break into a car. All it takes is a screw-driver, a quick movement up or down, and off snaps

the safety lock on the wind-wings. It's a simple thing after this to reach in and open the car. There have been numerous burglaries of this sort in recent weeks, especially along the beaches.

# TORRANCE PRESS

# 5-HOUR POLIO KILLS YOUNG TORRANCE MOTHER OF TWO

## COUNCIL BRIEFS

**PAY-HIKE:** A new salary schedule for city employees was adopted by the City Council. It is based on the three highest salary steps determined through a survey of cities of comparable size. No salaries were cut. The new schedule allegedly brings Torrance into balance with other cities.

**JUNIOR BLOCKADE:** While praising Councilman Willy's Blount's recent move against Palos Verdes to get rid of the barricades, Councilman Victor Benstead this week recommended that Torrance take down some of its own barricades as well. He referred specifically to Maple avenue between Carson and Sepulveda. The Council will study the matter.

**SHOPPING AREA:** Permission was granted Abraham Litrov and Morris Schultz for the construction and operation of a building supply center and retail stores, a barbecue restaurant and other retail shops close to the intersection of Newton street and Pacific Coast Highway.

**ASHLEY AVE.:** Bid for the

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## HOLIDAY TOLL



ONE OF TWO DRIVERS who was seriously injured during a collision Monday, lies near his battered car. David Byrne, 26, (above) of the Normandie Hotel in Harbor City, was hurled

out of his car when it collided with a car driven by Lenvil Brewer, 27, of 4348 W. 171st st. Brewer's condition is critical.

## NARCOTICS SUSPECTS ARRESTED

Two narcotics suspects, one a Torrance man, were arrested in an Inglewood parking lot Tuesday by radio officers who said they found eight packages of heroin and hypodermic equipment under the seat of their car.

William B. Needles, 24, a shipping clerk, of 2335 West 237th street, Torrance, was booked on a charge of possession of narcotics.

His companion, Thomas J. Tietz, 25, a baker's helper, of 2410 West Seventy-ninth street, Inglewood, was booked on a charge of addiction.

Detectives said Needles was freed from County Jail last June after serving six months on possession and addiction charges, and Tietz was released from Camarillo State hospital recently after a 90-day stay in an attempt to break his addiction.

Inglewood Officers J. J. Open and R. V. Bulger made the arrest at Fifth avenue and Manchester boulevard.

## City Council Deadlocks Over Fireman's Demotion

A four-man City Council split 2-2 Tuesday night over the case of Milton Langum, Torrance fireman who appealed his recent demotion to the Civil Service Board. The Council could not agree on the Board's recommendation which asked that Langum be reinstated in his former rank after a 90-day suspension. Two councilmen opposed even such a penalty.

Langum was demoted by Fire Chief J. J. Benner on June 11 for allegedly leaving the gears on a fire engine pump.

No evidence of serious damage was found by the Civil Service Board.

The Board based its recommendation that Langum be reinstated to his former rank of engineer upon the facts that Langum had a satisfactory performance record since 1949; that there was no written record of unsatisfactory performance; that the allegedly damaged equipment was tested

without any serious damage being found; and that it seemed easily possible to put the pump in unit accidentally into gear.

The Council appeared split on whether to carry out the spirit or the letter of the law. Councilmen Albert Isen and Mervin Schwab, who favored the 90-day suspension, argued that authority must be respected and that the Council either has confidence in the fireman or it does not.

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## DUMP SITE VARIANCE DENIED

Vigorous protests from Harbor City residents resulted in the denial of a dump site which had been proposed for 25901 South Normandie.

Request for the dump site variance had been made by Peter Shubin and A. J. Agajanian.

A representative of Kaiser Permanente Foundation appeared at one of the hearings and disclosed that his group planned the construction of a 60-bed hospital in the vicinity about February 1. These plans would be dropped if the dump were approved.

## Watch Your Step (Ladder)

While Mrs. Henry Henstill, 38, of Los Angeles, was inspecting a flat tire on her car at Hawthorne boulevard near Torrance boulevard she was struck by an eight-foot step-ladder which fell off a passing truck.

The ladder fell on Mrs. Henstill's feet. She was taken to Harbor General Hospital. Driver of the truck was Vernon H. Minke, 38, of Lynwood. He was driving a truck belonging to Electric and Machinery Service Truck of South Gate.

## Schools Open September 20

Torrance school bells will ring for 11,794 pupils on September 20. It is predicted that a total of 9744 elementary school children and 2050 high school children will be enrolled in the Torrance Unified School District by the end of September.

It is estimated that the Walteria Elementary School will open with 1069 children, which would make it the largest elementary school in the District. The North Torrance Elementary School will be next with 999 enrolled; followed closely by Fern-Greenwood, 948; Seaside, 928; and Carr, 911. Perry School will have 849; Riviera, 763; Torrance Elementary, 731; Wood, 669; Madrona, 655; Crenshaw, 500; Meadow Park, 405; and El Nido, 317.

Students in the Los Angeles school district will return to school September 13.

# Torrance Schools to Open September 20th