

1 Dies In Car Crash

A Torrance man was injured fatally when the car in which he was a passenger collided head-on with another at Rosecrans blvd. and Anderson st. in the Paramount area this weekend.

Dead is Juan Castillo, 47, of 214 Dominguez st., Torrance.

Castillo, according to the California Highway Patrol, was riding in a car driven by Frank Reyes, 35, of 3915 W. 242nd st., when it collided with an automobile driven by Frank Gomez, 34, of 3623 N. Rosecrans blvd., Hawthorne.

Both Reyes and Gomez were taken to General Hospital in critical condition.

The collision occurred in a light fog, patrolmen said.

Other traffic accidents in the Torrance area ranged all the way from a police car being smashed up to a child falling out of a moving car.

Falls Out of Car
Euriene Woods, 11, tumbled (Continued on Page 3)

TORRANCE ASKED TO ANNEX 250 ACRES IN ROLLING HILLS

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Matter to Be Studied By Council

Interest in having Torrance annex 250 acres of land in Rolling Hills was indicated this week when an engineering firm for the area inquired as to the steps which must be taken towards annexation and the city's requirements in the way of streets and roads.

The area, located in the vicinity of Crenshaw Blvd., is intended for residential development. The land involved is part of the area acquired recently by Great Lakes Carbon corp., according to City Manager George Stevens.

As a result of this and similar inquiries, the City Council as well as the Planning Commission will meet next week in order to establish a city policy on annexation matters.

No information was available at this time as to how many homes are planned in the Rolling Hills development in question or when construction will start.

The name of the engineering firm could not be determined by press time.

The firm did not disclose who the principals are which it represents, Stevens explained.

VOLUME VI THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1954 — TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA Number 32

Family, 7, Left Homeless House Burns To Ground

'I Never Threatened Divorce' Wife Testifies In Bigamy Case



TALKING THINGS OVER a few minutes prior to the preliminary hearing on a bigamy charge brought by his first wife is C. Gerald Groh, 30, of 16732 Crenshaw blvd., and Alberta Veronica Sallee, 26, wife No. 2. This shot was taken despite Groh's attempt to thwart a Torrance Press photographer from taking it.

Husband To Plead Nov. 22

"I never told my husband at any time that I intended to get a divorce in Ohio," Mrs. Cornelia Groh, 30, wife No. 1, said in effect Monday when a bigamy case came up for its preliminary hearing in the South Bay Municipal Court.

The bigamy charge was filed against Groh two weeks ago when his first wife returned here from a three-week trip back east only to find that her husband had remarried during that time.

"I didn't discuss the reason of my trip with him (her husband). He told me to go home. I was going to come back. No date was set for my return, though," Mrs. Groh testified.

After hearing testimony from the two wives, Judge Otto Willett ordered C. Gerald Groh, 30, of 16732 Crenshaw boulevard, North Torrance, to appear for his arraignment in Los Angeles Superior Court at 9 a.m., November 22. At this time, Groh is to plead guilty or not guilty to the bigamy charge brought against him by his first wife.

A court or jury trial will follow.

Evidence, in the form of a photostatic marriage certificate was presented Monday that Groh went through a marriage ceremony with Alberta Veronica Sallee, 26, a Hawaiian girl. Wife No. 2 admitted that she was married to Groh.

The attractive wife No. 1 wore a gray dress with pink (Continued on Page 3)



WAITING FOR THE BIGAMY HEARING to start in the South Bay Municipal Court Monday is wife No. 1, Mrs. Cornelia Groh, 30. She charges that Groh remarried while she was away on a three-week trip to see her folks. Next to her is Det. Sgt. Percy Bennett.

Assessment District Survey in Progress

A survey is being made now to assess the land valuation of properties inside the proposed off-street parking assessment district in downtown Torrance, according to Dale Isenberg, executive secretary of the Chamber of Commerce.

At a follow-up meeting Friday, the Chamber was authorized to make the land valuation survey, the cost of which will be borne by the Chamber.

Almost 100 per cent of the downtown property owners showed up at a meeting with the City Council last week to discuss off-street parking. General approval of establishing an assessment district was expressed, according to Isenberg.

DOG DIES IN FLAMES, KIDS SAVED

A Lomita family of seven was left homeless in a matter of minutes Monday, when a fire, apparently the result of defective wiring, resulted in the total destruction of their house and all their belongings.

The fire broke out at the home of Mr. and Mrs. William Chromister, 25028 Walnut. The Chromisters have five children. No one was hurt in the blaze but, Susie, a pet cocker spaniel, perished in the flames.

Children In House
The two youngest children, Mary, 3, and Cecil, 5, were watching "The Little School House" on TV when the fire broke out. Outside of the dog, there was no one else in the house.

When Cecil noticed the smoke he ran out into the yard to call his mother, while Mary continued watching TV. Mrs. Chromister rushed into the house, grabbed her daughter and rushed out again, she stated.

Remembering the dog, the woman raced back into the house but by this time the flames were so bad that she had to retrace her steps, leaving the animal to die in the flames.

On her first trip Mrs. Chromister tried to salvage the (Continued on Page 3)

Oscar Maples Grid Contest Winners

More winners were announced this week in the Oscar Maples football contest.

First, second, and third place winners are: John R. Glover, 2148 236th street; Sam A. Martin, 2827 Gramercy, and Leroy Grunder, 21742 Ravenna. They received \$20, \$10, and \$5 in merchandise prizes, respectively.

Winning a free lube job was Eddie Unrein, 2755 Onrado.

Contest rules may be found on page 22.

EDITORIAL Our Hospital Should Fit Our City

Men don't go to work wearing the trousers that fitted them in Junior High School days, and a man who wore a pair of baggy knickers to the shop would lead a miserable life indeed.

It is no wonder then that the people of Torrance and the surrounding area are having such a rough time of it, trying to "wear" their 30-year hospital.

What makes it worse is that this is not just the case of a boy growing into a man. Torrance has grown into a healthy giant 10 times the size of its boyhood days, and its relatives have moved in to share its hospital with it.

Some 205,000 people live in the Torrance Memorial "community" today, in place of the 5,000 in Torrance when the hospital was built in 1925.

Like a pair of 1925 knickers also, our "jazz-age" hospital is out of date in other ways. The design which put the operating rooms and delivery rooms in the same part of the hospital is now illegal.

The reason is humane. Young mothers and their babies should not be exposed to the dangers of infection which cannot help but be present with the general run of surgical cases.

The doors of Torrance Memorial have remained open since World War II only because the State Board of Health knows there is no other hospital to serve the people of a 64-square-mile area surrounding the hospital.

As a city, we are growing up, adding business and industries, and we have just decided to build ourselves a bigger civic "home" to take care of our public needs. It is time we stopped trying to fit our health needs into a short-pants hospital and bought the size we really need.

With the recent Federal grant-in-aid to help, we can afford the right size hospital. Let's buy while the sale is on. Let's back the Torrance Hospital Building Fund Campaign now.

Polio Kills Father Of Two Within 12 Hours

Barry Frederick Stitt, 21-year-old Torrance mail carrier, died early Friday morning, November 5, less than 12 hours after contracting bulbar polio, the most dangerous form of the dread disease.

LATE NEWS

HOSPITAL FUND: A total of 54 physicians of the Torrance Memorial hospital staff of 60 this week pledged \$100,000 towards the \$300,000 hospital fund campaign.

STOLEN TYPEWRITER: Theft of a "Quickrite" Remington portable typewriter was reported by Mrs. C. J. Siegrist, 16818 Faysmith. The typewriter was apparently stolen between Friday and Tuesday from a car parked in front of the house.

COORDINATING COUNCIL: Torrance Co-ordinating Council will meet Tuesday, November 16, 7:30 p.m., room 10, Greenwood school. Recommendations will be drawn up on the problem: How to make our city safer for children, including bicyclists.

CHEST CAMPAIGN: Torrance collected 84 per cent of its (Continued on Page 12)

Stitt, a native of Los Angeles, died at his home at 5:15 a.m., Friday, reportedly after his affliction was at first believed to be a nerve condition. He was stricken only the evening before.

The young Navy veteran and Leuzinger High School alumnus leaves his widow, Malba, and daughters Judy, 3, and Pattie, 2, who live at 1518 West 206th street, Torrance. Also surviving are his father, Nova F. Stitt of Los Angeles and his mother, Mrs. Nina DeCuir of Lawndale.

Stitt had been a Torrance Post Office employee for the past eight months. He was buried in Inglewood Park Cemetery on Monday following 2 p.m. funeral services in the Colonial Chapel of the Hardin and Flanagan Mortuary, Inglewood.

News Deadline
The Torrance Press Thanksgiving edition will be published Monday, November 22. All news items must be in the Torrance Press office by Friday, November 19, 5 p.m.

Gerster Home From Hospital After Crash

John Gerster, manager of Universal Furniture, was home this week recovering from a traffic accident in which he was badly cut and bruised. Gerster, who suffered a back injury, torn muscles, and cuts around the face, will not be able to return to work till sometime in mid-December, it was disclosed.

Gerster, 30, of 1646 W. 248th St., was involved in the accident at Western ave. and Sepulveda a week ago Tuesday and was taken to Torrance Memorial Hospital.

Gerster was driving south on Western when his auto collided with one driven by Mrs. Georgia Esther Scott, 46, of 1740 Gramercy ave., according to police. Mrs. Scott also received minor injuries.

Oscar Maples Holds Gala Ford Showina

A sensational premiere showing of the complete line of new Fords will be held this weekend, Friday through and including Sunday, with numerous gifts and prizes being given away at the Oscar Maples Ford agency, 1420 Cabrillo ave. in Torrance.

Seventeen completely new models will be on exhibit, with demonstrator cars being available. (Continued on Page 12)

CLARK GRAND OPENING CONTINUES

Clark officials today announced that the opening of the new Clark Market in Torrance at Hawthorne and Pacific Coast highway, was greeted with the most enthusiastic response on the part of 37,000 Torrance residents. The huge sale that was in effect in all other Clark Markets attracted record-breaking crowds in each of the communities where Clark Markets are situated.

As a token of their appreciation, Clark officials stated that this week-end will witness the continuation of the grand opening sale, bringing another completely new but equally impressive list of fine money-saving specials, from every department. Likewise again, the specials will be in effect for all Clark Markets.

Clark officials want to take this opportunity to thank the (Continued on Page 12)

No 'Hobby' Zone For Lomita

The master zoning plan for Lomita was approved by the County Regional Planning Commission Tuesday, but the "hobby" zone plan was tacitly rejected.

The County Board of Supervisors will make a final decision on the matter following a public hearing.

Minor Changes
The commission ordered three relatively minor changes in the original plan, but ignored requests made at a hearing that a "hobby" zone be created for the benefit of property owners who raise animals and have other (Continued on Page 3)

COUNCIL BRIEFS

CONVALESCENT HOSPITAL: Request of Paul H. Smith for a variance to build a 32-bed hospital on Arlington St. near 174th St., was unanimously denied by the Council. The Planning Commission recommended denial by a 6-2 votes.

SCHOOL SITE: The Council went on record to do everything within its power to see that the Don-Ja-Ran corporation donate a school site to the city in a proposed 65-acre tract between Palos Verdes Parkway and the ocean.

BUS DRIVERS: A large representation of Torrance bus drivers appeared making an expressive plea for increased salaries. The Council will study additional findings. Councilman Albert Isen recommended an increase. The motion died for lack of a second.

PLANNING COMMISSION: T. Fleetwood of North Torrance was appointed to replace Hugh Sherley on the Commission. The appointment was made by Mayor Nick Draie.

All Ya Gotta Do Is Whistle!

Do you suffer from nervous indigestion? Do you have trouble lately in telling flying saucers from helicopters? Or do you happen to have a '38 Plymouth pick-up truck for sale?

If so, try solving your problem by placing an ad in the Torrance Press classified section.

Mrs. Wilson of 22039 S. Moneta avenue did, with spectacular results.

Her inexpensive ad read:

FOR SALE—'38 Plymouth, 1/2-ton pickup, A-1 condition, 22039 S. Moneta FA. 8-1962

"I ran my ad twice with another local paper without any results. I ran it once in the Torrance Press and sold the truck instantly!" Mrs. Wilson exclaimed.

Don't make a problem out of what ails you... just place an ad in the Torrance Press classified section. Call FA 8-2345 a courteous classified girl will be glad to help you write your ad that will get results.

37,000 Attend Clark's Spectacular Opening