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CAA Probes Cause of Torrance Plane Crash

An investigation to fix responsibility for the plane crash that resulted in injuries to a Torrance physician-pilot and his three 13-year old passengers Sunday evening was being conducted by the Civil Aeronautics Administration late this week.

CAA officials were questioning witnesses who saw the plane piloted by Dr. Edward W. Knutson, 40, of 2406 Torrance blvd., plunge into a house at 2517 Dalemead st., in WALTERIA, after striking two power lines while attempting a landing at Torrance airport.

The final report of the CAA investigation will not be made to officials in Washington until a formal statement can be obtained from Dr. Knutson, the CAA said. Dr. Knutson, now in Torrance Memorial hospital, is reported in satisfactory condition. Hospital authorities could not say when Dr. Knutson would be released.

Dr. Knutson suffered severe head injuries and possible internal injuries. Also injured were his stepson, David Bottrell, who suffered a possible fractured skull; Ronnie Adams, of 1609 Acacia ave., who sustained fractured leg and possible internal injuries; and Jack Rood, of 1508 Amapola ave., who suffered an injury to his back, first believed to be a fractured spine.

They were all removed to Torrance hospital after being treated at Harbor general Hospital for two days. Rood was expected to be released "sometime this week," his mother, Mrs. Hugh L. Rood, said.

EIGHT UNHURT

The plane crashed into the house owned by Mr. and Mrs. James R. Carney, of 2517 Dalemead st., as Carney, his family and guests, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Ruiz, of Wilmington, were having their dinner. The eight people in the house, including a month old baby, were unhurt.

The baby was sleeping in a bassinet in a bedroom, a few feet from the wall struck by the plane as it crashed through the garage.

Bottrell, Dr. Knutson took off from Torrance airport about 2 p.m. for San Diego. He returned to Torrance about 6 p.m. and was attempting a landing when he ran into a cloud bank. He told police: "I pulled up and then saw Highway 101. I couldn't see the field so I looked at my compass and it said south. Then I remembered the Palos Verdes Hills so I turned left again to go back to Long Beach. Then I saw something and tried to straighten out. That's all I remember."



DR. EDWARD KNOTSON

Second Drag Race Crash Victim Dies

A second victim was claimed by death this week in the tragic aftermath of the drag race that ended when a car rammed into a Dolores st. house.

Richard Stuber, 23, of Long Beach, died at Harbor General Hospital, Saturday, six days after the accident. He was the owner of the car driven by Karen Allison, 16, of Wilmington, who died soon after being pulled from the wrecked car.

Two other victims were still on the hospital's critical list and hospital authorities reported no improvement in their condition. They were Richard Hayes, 17, of 1015 West 277 st., Torrance, and Henry Morales, 21, of Wilmington.

Hayes suffered a broken neck and is completely paralyzed. Morales suffered a concussion and a broken leg.

A third, Miss Questa Stoness, 16, of 203 West 224 st., suffered a broken thigh bone and is still on the critical list even though the hospital reported a slight improvement in her condition.

ONE RELEASED

Miss Catherine Hobbs, 15, of 1741 Lakme ave., Wilmington, suffered a broken thigh bone. Her condition improved rapidly and she was released from the hospital this week.

Stuber, a cargo handler for American Airlines, was born in Cleveland, O., but lived in Long Beach for 13 years. He is survived by his mother, Mrs. Flora Stuber; a brother, Warren; and two sisters, Linda and June.

Funeral services were conducted Monday at the Mottel and Peek Mortuary in Long Beach. Burial was at Sunnyside Memorial Park.

Johnny Grant, Col. Hess Star at Banquet Tonight

Two men who have done unequalled duty for war-torn Korea will feature the Benefit Banquet climaxing Torrance's week-long "Salute to the Golden Anniversary of Air Power" tonight.

The gala affair, hosted by the Torrance Chamber of Commerce, will start at 8 p.m. at the new "Rick's Restaurant" located on Western ave., just south of Torrance blvd.

Johnny Grant, famed disc jockey and movie star, will serve as Master of Ceremonies at the program featuring the talk of Col. Dean Hess, one of America's most decorated war heroes.

Grant is being honored by President Eisenhower for his troop entertainment trips overseas. Johnny knows both the man and the ravaged country concerned, which Col. Hess will recount at the benefit for Korean War Orphans. The personable Grant, has taken eleven troupes of entertainers to Korea and is presently readying a Christmas Show for the Far East Theatre.

Many high ranking Air Force officers are expected to join Torrance Mayor Albert Isen and other city and civic leaders at the affair at which both the City of Torrance and the Torrance Chamber of Commerce will receive golden airplane models for their cooperation with the United States Air Force.

Council Okays Plan to Build 80 Units

Approval of the construction of 80 apartments in 13 multiple dwellings units between Newton and Dalemead sts. and Tandem way and Weston road was voiced by the City Council Tuesday evening.

The four to one vote for approval ended a complicated hassle that had been carried on by the builder, Gilbert Sellen, of 1318 South Gertruda ave., Redondo Beach, and city councilman, officials in Torrance Planning Commission and engineer's office.

The officials wanted Sellen to provide a 25 foot setback between his buildings and the street. Sellen maintained that his lots weren't long enough to enable him to do it.

Mayor Albert Isen sent Sellen Building Superintendent Lee Schlenz and City Engineer Ronald W. Bishop out of the council chambers during the council meeting to work out a compromise. The three came back with an agreement to establish a 17 foot setback.

Councilman Willys G. Blount was the lone dissenter when approval of the building plan was voted. Sellen estimated that the buildings would cost approximately one million dollars to construct.

Order Armored Car Service; City To Save \$1600

An estimated saving of \$1600 a year to the city was forecast by Finance Director Jerome L. Scharfman when the City Council voted to employ an armored car service to transport funds from the City Treasurer's office and the Municipal Bus Line to city banks.

Scharfman told the council that it now costs the city \$10 a day to pay for the services of a Deputy City Treasurer, or Bus Line bookkeeper, a police officer and a police patrol car to transport the money to the banks each day.

Airport Commissioners Ask for Speaking Dates

Thomas B. Abrams, chairman of the Torrance Airport commission, announced this week that the commission members are available to speak before any and all groups on the Airport Bond issue scheduled to be voted on at the special election, October 29.

Torrance Lags Far Behind Neighbor Cities in Parks

Torrance is far behind other California cities of similar size in providing park and recreational facilities for its residents, a comparative study undertaken by the Torrance Press revealed.

The Press survey indicated that even with passage of the \$3,000,000 Park and Recreation Bond Issue which will add ten new parks to the Torrance park system and improve four existing parks, the city will still lag far behind neighboring California cities.

The figures collected by the Press show that Pasadena, with a population of 111,000, has 23 parks totaling 1,239 acres. Glendale, with a population of 116,000, has 15 parks encompassing a total acreage of 745.83 acres. Burbank's population of 91,000 utilizes eight parks with a total acreage of 376.25.

Torrance, with its population of 93,000, has four improved parks totaling 61 acres, 26 of them improved and 35 unimproved.

RECREATION COMPARED

Torrance fares badly even when recreation facilities are compared:

Pasadena has 16 tennis courts; Glendale, 12; Burbank, 12 (ten of them night-lighted); and Torrance, two.

Pasadena has six community recreation buildings; Glendale, four; Burbank, three and Torrance, four.

In softball diamonds, Pasadena has 15 (five of them night-lighted); Glendale, one; Burbank, eight (all night-lighted); and Torrance, three (all night-lighted).

City Takes Over El Nido Park

The City Council found itself over a small barrel when it was confronted with a lease agreement offered by Los Angeles County.

The county offered to lease El Nido Park to the city on a rent free basis for 50 years but stipulated that all improvements made on the park property would belong to the county when the agreement ended in 2007.

"We have a choice of refusing the park or accepting it on the county's terms," County Attorney Stanley Remelmeier told the council Tuesday evening. The council accepted in 50 seconds flat.

The park was developed by the county before the area was annexed to Torrance last year.

Local Man Dies Of Injuries

Edward H. Wagner, 47, of 1311 W. 228th st., passed away at Harbor General hospital on Tuesday as a result of injuries he received in a traffic accident last Saturday.

The car he was driving collided with one being driven by John M. Boss, 36, of 611 Gulf ave., Wilmington. The accident occurred at Alameda and Sepulveda blvd.

Boss is still confined to Harbor General hospital suffering from head injuries.

Election Ordered At Shell

A collective bargaining election between two unions was ordered at the Shell Chemical Corp. plant by the National Labor Relations Board this week.

The NLRB said that the disputing unions are the International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 501, AFL-CIO and the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers International Union, AFL-CIO.

Local 501 has requested a separate election among employees in two of the steam plants the company operates in Torrance, while the oil workers contend only the production and maintenance unit employees are appropriate for a separate bargaining group, the board said. It called for an election within 30 days.

Hold Services For Victim of Auto Fire

Funeral services for Ervin N. Larsen, 43, of 1446 East 215th st., who died after being seriously burned when a can of gasoline exploded in his car, were held in the Halverson-Leavell Mortuary last week.

Larsen was an electrical inspector at North American Aircraft and had lived in Torrance 16 years.

He is survived by his wife, Ruth; four sons, Joseph, Henry, Ervin, Jr. and Steven; a daughter, Margaret; six brothers and two sisters.

Bishop Neldon Rentmeister of the Torrance Latter Day Saints church officiated at the services.

Order Armored Car Service; City To Save \$1600

As Dr. Knutson's plane edged down, it struck a 4000 volt line near Carney's house and then nosed over into the garage.

Power and lights were cut off in much of the southern portion of the city for more than an hour until repaired by Edison Co. emergency squad men.

Dr. Knutson had been flying for 14 months. He owned the Piper Tri-Pacer which was completely demolished, its wings sheared off and fuselage and motor twisted and shattered.

Patsy Screams, Prowler Runs

The screams of an 11-year-old girl drove a prowler out of the home of Raymond H. Babb, of 1752 Andrew ave. this week.

Patsy Babb awakened at 5 a.m. Sunday and saw a dark, shadowy shape in the hallway of her home. Believing that it was her father, she called out. When her father replied to her from another room and told her to go back to sleep and stop her dreaming, Patsy screamed.

The prowler ran from the house. He took a wallet belonging to Mrs. Babb.

City Breaks Out in Rash of Thefts

Thieves prowled in Torrance over the weekend and made off with \$3,200 worth of tools, \$559 in cash and an \$800 boat and trailer in six separate robberies reported to police.

E. K. Lyon of the Cecco Engineering Corp. told police that the company plant at 1511 Border ave. had been broken into and \$3,000 worth of fine gauge instruments and tools stolen. A coin box on a soft drink machine was pried apart and about \$40 in the box was also taken.

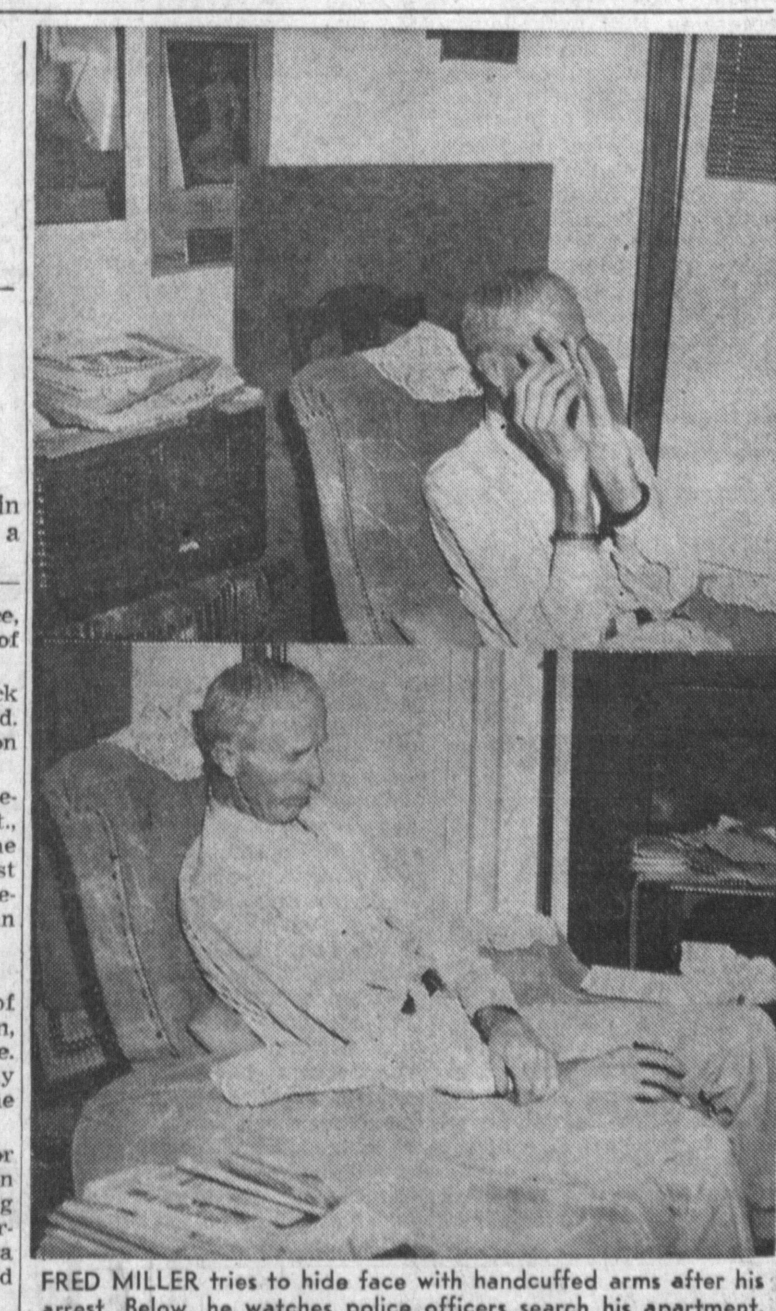
Dean D. Hergenrother, of 2033 West 166th st., reported that \$260.56 in change and checks were stolen from the locked glove compartment of his truck that had been parked in front of his garage.

Mrs. Leslie Davis, of 742 Sartori ave., and Mrs. Willetta Hulgan, of 205 S. Sloan ave., Compton, reported the loss of \$209. The money had been taken from their purses left in the dressing room of the store on South Arlington ave. in which they worked Saturday. The thief threw their empty billfolds into a parked car near the store.

A box of tools valued to \$200 was taken from the garage of the home occupied by Jack Turner, of 2267 Maricopa st., he told police.

Roland E. Holland, owner of a trailer parked at 1900 West 174th st., reported that his trailer had been rifled and \$50 in cash taken.

The loss of the boat and trailer was reported by Jack E. Ray, of 2130C Sepulveda blvd.



FRED MILLER tries to hide face with handcuffed arms after his arrest. Below, he watches police officers search his apartment.



MRS. FRANCES TRUE OSBORNE is shown in the Torrance jail after her arrest Tuesday night. (—Exclusive Press Photo.)

City Breaks Out in Rash of Thefts

A vice and sex den that had operated secretly in downtown Torrance for several years was raided by Torrance police and detectives from the Los Angeles Sheriff's office Tuesday night. The raid resulted in the arrest of two men and a woman. They were:

Fred Miller, 71-year-old amateur photographer of 1218 El Prado st., who was held by police on charges of procuring and on suspicion of distributing lewd and pornographic material;

Mrs. Frances True Osborne, 38, of 617 Amapola ave., held on charges of prostitution; and

An unidentified man whom police were holding as a material witness. He was released Wednesday morning.

The three were arrested in Miller's apartment on the second floor of a store building at El Prado and Sartori. After the raid, police uncovered a cache of pornographic photographs, negatives, reels of film, magazines and books stored in boxes that lined the walls of the three-room apartment and were piled in the closet and under the bed.

Acting on a tip that Miller was operating as a procurer, a detective from the Los Angeles Sheriff's office vice detail assumed the role of a "customer." The detective handed Miller a marked \$10 bill, the price asked by Miller. When Miller took the money, the detective signaled to other detectives from the Sheriff's office and members of the Torrance police force.

They came up the stairs to apartment eight, entered the back bedroom and found Mrs. Osborne, and another man whom police refused to identify. Mrs. Osborne and her companion were taken to police headquarters for questioning.

Miller was handcuffed and held in his apartment for four hours while detectives searched his apartment and took as evidence a truck load of the salacious material that Miller said he had been collecting for years. He repeatedly denied that he had been selling or distributing the material. He admitted that he would sometimes display his store of thousands of photographs and hundreds of films to "friends."

LIVED IN RATS NEST

A thin, sawallow man, Miller sat meekly in an overstuffed chair in his cluttered living room. Around the walls of every room in the apartment were photographs and calendar reproductions of women in various stages of undress.

Cartons of empty bottles were stored in the bathroom; cartons of canned food were stacked halfway up two walls in the kitchen; hundreds of carefully folded paper bags were heaped in kitchen cupboards; cartons of old letters, bills, receipts, and scraps of paper were piled in every corner of the living and bedroom; stacks of old magazines and books were beside every chair, next to old radio cabinets, and against walls.

Amidst the clutter was a movie projector, a photographic enlarger; developing tanks, cans and boxes containing reels of film; and boxes full of photographs and negatives. Also in Miller's hoard were dental equipment; electrical "health" devices; drills and tools and a .38 calibre revolver.

Opportunities Come With Press Ads

"Opportunity" the classified ad said, and 28 men who saw the ad in the Torrance Press called on Herman Nord of Beneficial Life Insurance Co. before the opportunity stopped knocking.

Nord advertised in the Torrance Press for two or three men who wanted an "excellent future" in their jobs. He took his pick of men and is now training them. In a few weeks, as soon as he finishes the training period, he says he'll try another ad to recruit more men.

Opportunity came to the new employees. More business can be expected by Mr. Nord. Moral: Opportunities for more business come to Torrance Press classified advertisers. Call in your ad today. Call FA. 8-2345.

Amateur Photographer

Miller told police that he had been living in the apartment since January 2, 1942. He said he was retired and receiving Social Security payments. He had formerly worked in a Torrance manufacturing plant and was well known in town as an amateur photographer who took pictures of parades and other civic events.

Police uncovered hundreds of