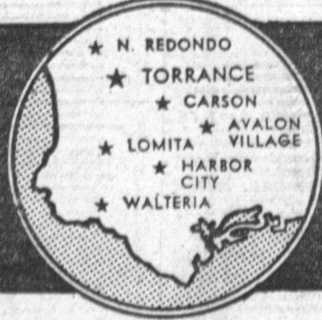


# One Teenager Dead, Seven Injured in Traffic Here

The Largest Circulating Newspaper between Los Angeles and Long Beach



# TORRANCE PRESS

1406 CRAVENS AVE.—FA 8-2345

10c PER COPY

VOL. X

1 2

THURSDAY, JUNE 5, 1958

NUMBER 15

# Democrats Show Heavy Gains in Primary Election Vote Returns

## Blames Wife's Death on Lack of Doctor



SEEK CHANGES—Jess Mata and his daughter, Mary Lou, 11, look at picture of mother. Mata claims that his wife probably died on Memorial Day because he was unable to find a doctor who could admit his wife to the hospital.

## Maie Tells Three-Hour Search for Physician

Memorial Day, 1958, will long live in the memory of Jesus (Gess) Mata. It was the day he vainly sought medical aid for his wife and didn't find it until it was too late. Mata, a city employee in the street department, is not a resentful man, but he feels his story needs telling, because it might spare someone else the tragedy he and his 12 children suffered by the death of his wife.

His story opens on Friday morning at shortly after 8. His wife, Agapita, 43, had breathing difficulties all night.

## Weed Abatement to Be Enforced

Torrance will take steps to end the fire hazard and unsightliness of flourishing weeds, when it calls for bids on a weed abatement contract in the near future.

The city council approved a plan under which a private contractor will post and clean lots, and the city will bill the property owners.

Under the system, the contractor will post all lots which need cleaning. Three days later, the property owner will be notified of the posting by letter. He then has the choice of cleaning the lot himself or let the contractor do it for him.

Bills for the cleanup will be sent and if they are not paid, the assessor will charge the bill as a lien on the property tax the following year.

## Plane 'Buzzing' Being Investigated

Investigation of alleged "buzzing" of Torrance residential areas this week was turned over to the Sheriff's aero detail by Torrance police.

Dave Largo of 905 Hickory st., complained to police that he observed a private plane use a field at Hickory and Maricopa st. for "touch and go landings."

Police said that they traced the plane from the number furnished them by Largo, to Robert Bennett of 22315 Evelyn ave., whose plane is stationed at Hawthorne Municipal Airport.

Officers said that Bennett told them he was teaching a student how to make forced landings.

## Student Killed in Accident

A North High School student was fatally injured in a head-on collision at Hawthorne blvd. and 190th st. and seven other teenagers were injured in traffic crashes this week.

William James Pierce Jr., 18, of 17202 Elgar st., died six hours after he was admitted to Harbor General Hospital with head and chest injuries.

Three other youths were also taken to Harbor General Hospital with serious injuries. They were Jack Dan Pherigo, 18, of 3944 W. 182nd st., driver of the other car, and his two passengers, Jerry Rocha, 18, and Patrick Anthony Frattarole, 17, both of 3808-B W. 174th st., of officers said.

Witnesses told police they observed Pierce race through the intersection of Hawthorne blvd. and Torrance blvd. several times and that he ran the signal at that location on at least two occasions.

Four teenage girls were taken to Harbor General Hospital Monday after their car apparently skidded in a puddle of water and smashed into a pole.

Torrance police said the car crashed into the post in the 3300 block on 182nd st.

Hospitalized were the driver, Sharon Kay Preitsmeyer, 16, of 17101 Palda ave., and three passengers in her convertible. They (Continued on Page Two)

## Torrance Entry Wins '500' Stock Race at Riverside

Eddie Gray, 35, driver of one of the three-car entry sponsored by Vel's Ford of Torrance, lead-footed his way to first place in Sunday's 500-mile stock car races in Riverside.

"My back is pretty stiff, but otherwise I feel fine," said Gray, hugging his winner's trophy.

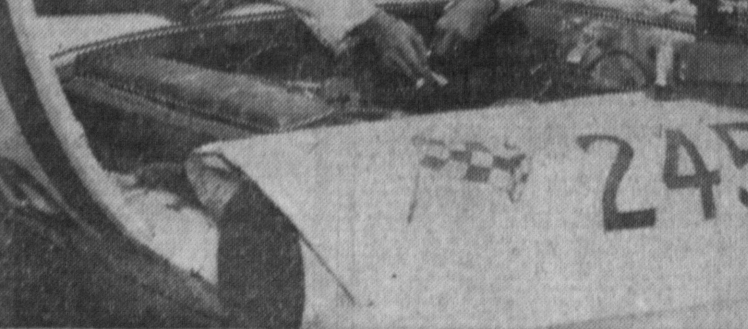
The driver guided his 1957 Ford through the grueling contest in six hours, 17 minutes, at an average speed of 80 mph.

The course is laid out for both left and right hand turns, with a 1.1 mile straightaway during which Gray accelerated to 120 mph.

"But on some of the curves you have to come down to 35 mph," he commented.

He credited the pit crew, headed by Wes Roark of Vel's staff, for gaining his victory.

"It took them only 40 seconds to put in 20 gallons of gas, two and a half quarts of oil and change the tires," he said. In all he made three pit stops during the race.



WINNING CAR—Eddie Gray, right, who won the 500-mile stock car race at Riverside Sunday, watches as car engine is being inspected by Wes Roark, Lynn Gaither and Vel Miletich. Vel's Ford sponsored three-car entry in the race with Gray bringing in the trophy.

## Driver Slashed by Trio of Bandits in Holdup Here

A motorist was forced into a post by a trio of robbers who waylaid him on Newton st. in a rash of four robberies in three days.

Frederic Everett Eakins of 1241 Eubank, Wilmington, told police Monday that the suspects' auto smashed into his own twice, in efforts to stop him.

He said his car finally ran into a post, and as he got out to survey the damage the robbers chopped at his face and body with a can opener, inflicting 32 minor cuts.

They relieved him of his wallet, which contained \$47 and drove off.

Other victims of strong arm tactics were two service station attendants and a man returning from a holiday trip.

The latter, James Raker of 1810 Cabrillo st., was accosted by two men in front of his house who pinned his arms back while they removed his wallet containing \$50.

Raker told police the robbers grabbed him after he refused to give them a ride to Redondo Beach.

Attendant Robbed Frank Smith, 53, an attendant at a service station at 18200 Hawthorne blvd., told police he was approached by two men who displayed a revolver and barked: "OK. Get inside. We're not fooling. Relax and act normal

and you won't get hurt." They robbed the station and Smith of \$170 in cash and two cartons of cigarettes.

Wipe Prints Before leaving, they tore the telephone from the wall and ordered the victim to wipe off their fingerprints. They put him in a storage room before leaving.

Two bandits robbed Chris Spreitz, attendant at a station at 18910 Crenshaw blvd., of \$43 over the week end, ordered him to remain in the restroom when they left.

One of the suspects wore a red polka dot bandana over the lower part of his face.

## City Eyes Municipal Library

The city will establish its own library system July 1, 1959, unless it can get an extension of its present county contract.

That was the informal decision of the city council Monday in which it accepted the minority report of the Library Commission on future service.

Cancel Contract The city has already been put on notice that the county will cancel its present contract next year and the city will have the choice of joining a county library district at higher cost than the present contract, or break away and form a municipal library system.

The majority report of the commission, signed by H. Mitchell, William Hoag and Mrs. C. Humphreys, recommends that Torrance join the county district.

It states that the county has offered to build a \$300,000 building in the civic center, and will be in better position to supply seldom-used books.

City System The minority report, signed by W. Hanson and Mrs. John Crain, urges a municipal system.

It claims that the city will have to buy the \$300,000 library building, the city could determine its own tax rate, and the city could provide more equal facilities in all parts of the city.

The minority report urges that the city call an examination for librarians, who can prepare for the changeover.

## How They Voted in Torrance

(Unofficial—126 Out of 152 Precincts)

GOVERNOR		CONGRESS	
Democratic:	8708	Democratic:	9717
Brown:	1431	DiMiceli:	413
Republican:	1553	Republican:	2907
Brown:	4890	DiMiceli:	3143
Knowland:			

U. S. SENATOR		ASSEMBLY	
Democratic:	8600	Democratic:	8600
Christopher:	606	Thomas:	326
Engle:	7278	Brewer:	326
Knight:	2234	Republican:	
Republican:	1845	Thomas:	1973
Christopher:	574	Brewer:	2582
Engle:	3588	Los Angeles Shoestring voted 801 to 872 against Proposition B (baseball).	
Knight:			

(15 Out of 18 Precincts)

GOVERNOR		CONGRESS	
Democratic:	1541	Democratic:	1645
Brown:	192	DiMiceli:	60
Republican:		Republican:	
Brown:	183	King:	274
Knowland:	490	DiMiceli:	300

SENATOR		ASSEMBLY	
Democratic:	58	Democratic:	1480
Christopher:	1293	Thomas:	39
Engle:	347	Brewer:	39
Knight:		Republican:	
Republican:	180	Thomas:	356
Christopher:	77	Brewer:	271
Engle:	376		
Knight:			

## Torrance Supports Cal. Trend

Torrance and Lomita voters followed the general statewide trend closely in selecting the candidates who will battle it out in November, in Tuesday's primary election.

In the governor's race, Knowland won the overwhelming Republican support, while Brown grabbed an even heavier lead on the Democratic side.

Knight appeared to have trounced his GOP opponent, George Christopher, for the Republican nomination for U. S. senate, while Engle forged away ahead in Democratic balloting.

Congress Race In the 17th Congressional race, incumbent Cecil King appeared to be headed for a November showdown vote with Leonard DiMiceli, his Republican foe. Each candidate won his own party's endorsement.

Incumbent Assemblyman Vincent Thomas will face a second consecutive duel at the polls with Tom Brewer in November, after each won his own party's backing. Thomas is a Democrat and Brewer a Republican.

Similar results were indicated by Lomita voters. Approximately 60 per cent of Torrance's eligible voters cast ballots in the election.

Baseball Issue Although neither Torrance nor Lomita residents were eligible to vote for the controversial issue on whether or not the Chavez Ravine deal should be approved, residents of the Los Angeles City "shoestring" turned the measure down, 804 to 672.

No clear results in the overall picture of the Dodger ballpark pact were available by press time, although the measure appeared to be slightly ahead.

## Huck Finn Day Lures Anglers

There will be thrills aplenty for children up to and including 15 years of age at Alondra Park Lake on Saturday when the Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation will stage its annual Huck Finn day.

So, get out your fishing gear boys and girls and enter the competition for prizes in the fishing derby and in the Huck Finn and Becky Thatcher costume contests.

The fishing will get under way at 9:30 a.m. and will conclude with judging of the catch at noon. Lake Alondra is located at 3535 W. Redondo Beach blvd. The event is open to all children in Los Angeles County.

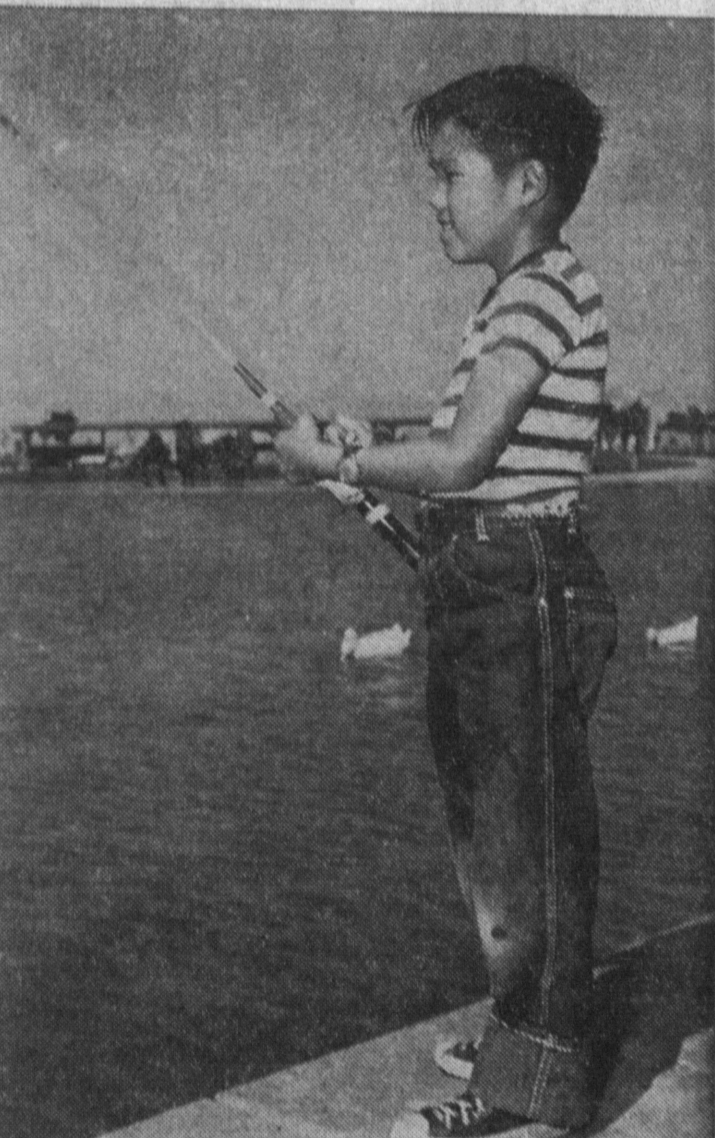
The fishing and costume prizes will be in two age groups, 10 years and under, and 11 to 15 years. The angler who hooks "Old Finback," a tagged fish, will receive a valuable rod and reel.

Contestants must bring their own poles, lines and hooks. Live-cut bait will be furnished. No artificial lures can be used.

The prizes will be for: Best Huck Finn costume (boys); Best Becky Thatcher costume (girls). Largest fish; Smallest fish; First limit to be caught.

ADVISORY MEETING Report on school construction and on the Waverly "Little Red School House," will highlight the meeting of the Torrance Educational Advisory Committee Monday noon at the YWCA according to Dr. Joseph P. Bay, moderator.

HOT DOGS SCATTERED Hot dogs were scattered all through the cafeteria of the Fleming Junior High School, Lomita, by burglars who entered the building; deputy sheriffs reported.



WARMIN' UP—Practicing for the annual Huck Finn Day to be held at Alondra Park Saturday is Dean Yokota, 7. Youngsters will be awarded prizes for catching the big ones and wearing appropriate costumes.

## Finds Babysitter Job Block from Home with Press

Virginia Smead of 1907 Condon ave., Redondo Beach, had a difficult time making up her mind which of numerous babysitting jobs she should accept after she ran a classified ad in the Torrance Press.

The first time her ad appeared she received 15 calls for employment and finally found a position only a block away from her home. She is now taking care of two children and can walk to work.

You, too, may have quick results by calling a Torrance Press ad taker at FA 8-2345, and she will assist you with your problems, whether they be job finding, renting, buying or selling.

## Library Raises Overdue Book Fee

The high cost of living has finally caught up with the Torrance branch of the County Library.

As of July 1, the fine for overdue books will be raised from 2 to 3 cents per day.

"The 2-cent fine is probably the last survivor of that era when a nickel bought a ride to the end of the trolley line, a cup of coffee and all refills on the house. The library can no longer afford a policy so out of keeping with increased costs in all other services and commodities," said Mrs. Elton Terry, chief regional librarian.

Death Listed as Suicide Death of Mrs. Faye K. Pilgrini, 45, of 232 Calle Miramar, Tuesday afternoon, was listed as a suicide by Torrance police.