



NATIVITY SCENE—The scene in the manger is enacted by youngsters who will appear in "A Christmas Legend" at 7:30 p.m. today and tomorrow at the Civic Auditorium. Members of the cast include (left to right) Diane Sigler, Brian Schwartz, Carol Thomas, Ben D'Andrea and Jerry Moore. The pageant, sponsored by the Torrance Recreation Dept., is directed by Mrs. Pat Bennett, a teacher at the Perry School. No admission will be charged.



CHRISTMAS SPIRIT—Residents of Toucan St. gave almost unanimous support to a decoration program on their street, featuring animated displays such as the elves dancing around Santa Claus in front of the home of Jack Denike, of 4626 Toucan, left, and the skating elves on a pond, as exhibited in front of the home of Charles E. Schoendienst, of 4622 Toucan. The moving figures are activated by motors, and were built by the two men. In all there are a score of displays on the street, with 80 per cent



of the home owners cooperating. Another holiday touch is the 80 candy canes on both sides of the street. The residents plan an even bigger and better display next year, and invite their neighbors to come and take a look. Press Photos

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Playing with Death

An Editorial

A legal murder almost was committed here last Friday. Only the sensible action by two desperate fathers and another man saved two youngsters from certain death by asphyxiation.

They finally rushed the tots, aged 3½, to a hospital by cab, after they waited fruitlessly for police, ambulance or fire rescue equipment.

The exact amount of time that elapsed between the first call for help and the arrival of the first rescue equipment is unknown.

The best estimate varies between 20 and 35 minutes. Either was too long.

It is true that during times of disaster seconds seem like hours and minutes like days. But all persons who waited desperately for some help from public emergency agencies claimed that at least 20 minutes elapsed.

The blame for this lengthy delay rests not so much with any one individual or agency, but with a series of circumstances that should be remedied.

The near-deaths occurred in the narrow "shoe-string strip" of Los Angeles, three houses east of Western Ave. The residents receive their mail from the Torrance Post Office, but their municipal services, including fire and police protection from Los Angeles.

Torrance's city limits stop at the middle of Western Ave. The first person to call for aid located "116" for emergency service. She was told that the location in which the asphyxiation occurred was not in Torrance, but that the operator would call the proper agency. Which she may have done.

At any rate, Torrance police who were finally contacted called the Torrance fire department at 10:48 a.m. to advise them of the emergency.

The Torrance fire department referred the call to the Los Angeles fire department, but did not itself respond.

At 10:52 four precious minutes later, Los Angeles called Torrance back, advising them it was rolling its equipment to the scene, and asked for assistance.

The Torrance department promptly dispatched its rescue unit to the scene, a drive estimated at from three to four minutes, but arrived some time after the boys already were taken to the hospital, where they were revived with oxygen.

Torrance fire officials said they have a policy of not sending any equipment outside the city limits, except when requested by the jurisdiction in which the emergency occurs.

They point out that if they rushed out on every emergency outside of the city limits, they could be caught without sufficient equipment and manpower if anything happens inside the city.

On this particular occasion, they were requested to assist, because Los Angeles had an almost simultaneous emergency in a gas explosion at Pacific Coast Hwy. and Western Ave.

While the delay in Torrance only accounted for four minutes, there was apparently another delay before the Torrance police department ever received the call.

It is even more confusing to consider that the area east of Normandie also has Torrance postal address, but is served by the county agencies.

Some agreement between the governmental agencies to serve this area should be reached. On this occasion the margin between life and death was estimated at five minutes.

The next time, there may be no margin at all.

Plot to Kill Children and Self, Jails Local Mother

Building Ban Imposed

Bizarre Mystery Probed

Protest Water Supply

BULLETIN
The City Council Tuesday night instructed City Attorney Stanley Remelmeier to draw an ordinance to clamp a building ban on South Torrance areas where water pressure is below the minimum standard. Councilman Willy Blount made a motion creating a hazard area, which will require prospective builders to obtain special permission to build in the hazard zone.

Allegations of insufficient water supply for basic household needs, odors and poor taste were hurled at a private water company during a Public Utilities Commission hearing in Lomita Tuesday.

The hearing was called by Examiner Grant Syphers to determine if the required improvements were made by the Narbonne Ranch Water Co. No. 2, as specified when it was granted a rate hike five years ago.

Spokesmen for some 80 persons who attended the session in the American Legion Hall, claimed that the service has deteriorated rather than improved since the increase was granted.

Smelly Water
"We are very unhappy over the water both for quality and quantity," said Raymond E. Jackson, 24347 Pennsylvania Ave.

"We can't drink it, and when you turn on the hot water it smells. It has a funny odor and it doesn't taste right," he added. Mrs. Juliana Lipkowski, of 23903 Pennsylvania Ave., charged that she has been unable to get water for two hours at a time.

"Once my husband brushed his teeth and he couldn't get any water out of the faucet to rinse his mouth," she testified. She claimed that she had difficulty obtaining sufficient water to operate her washing machine.

Oil in Water
A lighter moment in the hearing came when Mrs. John Slaughter of 2345 W. 237th St. stated her case.

"We get oil in our water, but not enough to bring in any money," she said. Claims that the low water pressure brings higher fire insurance rates were voiced by David Fay of 2011 W. 242nd St. (continued on page 5)

Sunday Store Hours Observed

Several Torrance stores will remain open Sunday to serve Christmas shoppers who are unable to do their shopping during the week.

Sunday store hours will be from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the following Downtown Torrance stores: J. J. Newberry's, Karl's Shoe Store, Lawson Jewelers, Western Auto, Anita Shops, Dale's Department Store, and many others.

Trio Held In Carson Robbery

Three youths suspected of terrorizing clerks in three liquor store robberies, two in the Torrance area, were captured by Los Angeles police Sunday night.

Tommy Wysocki, clerk in the store at 21923 S. Main St., was treated at Harbor General Hospital for a bullet wound in the groin received in a holdup Saturday night.

Another clerk, James Taff, 24, and George A. Moulton, a customer who was in the store when the three gunmen walked in, were pistol-whipped on the head. They too were treated at Harbor General Hospital.

The trio, also allegedly held up Orin Sears, a clerk in a liquor store at 2623 W. 190th St., Redondo Beach in their 24-hour crime spree, police said.

Held on suspicion of robbery were George Hicks, 18, Richard Bagley, 20, and Gary Brazzile, 20, all of Gardena.

Bagley and Brazzile were captured by an off-duty policeman in the vicinity of a holdup in West Los Angeles. They were nabbed after their car rammied into another one.

Hicks was nabbed while he was hiding in an alley near Venice Blvd. and Midvale Ave.

The trio was captured shortly after a clerk in the West Los Angeles store fired back at them and they fled.

NAME EXECUTIVE
C. B. (Cliff) Smith has joined the Electronics Division of Ryan Aeronautical Company as customer relations manager, according to an announcement made today by Owen S. Olds, the Division's Director of Engineering and Customer Relations. Smith will be in charge of both military and commercial sales activities.



TRAFFIC VICTIM—Ambulance attendants get ready to pick up Bobby Plunkitt, 10, of West Pacific Coast Hwy. Tuesday. The boy was pronounced dead at Harbor General Hospital.

Boy, 10, Killed in Auto Crash

Robert Plunkitt, 10, of 23501 Madison St., was fatally injured Tuesday afternoon when he was pinned under a car in front of 3602 Pacific Coast Highway, police said.

The youngster, a student in Walteria School, died a few hours after he was taken to Harbor General Hospital.

The driver of the car, identified as Melvin Carson, 25, of Compton, was not held. The boy was struck by the auto, witnesses told police.

Plan Town Meeting

A "Town Meeting" program is being studied by the Narbonne Area Community Council as a means of aiding improvements in the area, Loman Carter, chairman, announced.

Next meeting of the group will be held Jan. 8, at 7:30 p.m. in Narbonne High School.

Free Parking Given Holiday Shoppers

Shoppers will get a Christmas bonus of free parking in metered stalls in Torrance, as result of City Council action.

By a 4-to-3 vote, the city fathers approved a motion by George Bradford to allow motorists to park without dropping pennies and nickels into meters in the downtown and Hollywood Riviera sections.

But some of the councilmen were opposed to the move. "I have a feeling that the merchants will ask to take them out permanently, and then who'll pay for the parking lots?" asked Victor E. Townsend.

Councilman Robert Jahn announced he opposes any temporary moratorium on the meter ordinance.

Councilman Willy Blount moved that the meters be removed permanently, but received no second.

"I didn't expect a second. I just wanted to call your bluff," he said.

He, Jahn and Benstead voted against the temporary free parking.

Police will be instructed to put hoods over the meter heads, with Christmas wishes from the city printed on them.

URGES PAY HIKE

A recommendation that City Treasurer Harriet Leech's salary be increased by \$50 to \$400 a month, was made Tuesday by City Manager George Stevens.

REPORTS BURGLARY

A burglar who forced his way into the home of Edith Walcher, 3713 W. 172nd St., made off with \$85 in cash and a diamond ring, the victim told police.

Three New Schools Open in Northside

A major step in the drive against double sessions in Torrance schools will be taken early in 1959 with the scheduled opening of three new north Torrance elementary schools.

Opening of Magruder, Yukon, and Hamilton Elementary Schools will reduce the number of north Torrance children on double session from 2800 to about 1150.

All three new schools will contain 14 classrooms, two kindergarten rooms, administration unit, and multi-purpose (cafeteria-auditorium) units. Magruder and Hamilton will have shop and homemaking units, while Yukon and Hamilton will have music buildings.

Magruder School, 4100 W. 125th St., will serve all of the area now served by El Nido School and part of the present Edison School area. With the opening of Magruder, the district will close El Nido School. El Nido is housed in temporary

wooden buildings at the present time.

Opening of Yukon School, 17815 Yukon Ave., will relieve double session problems at Perry, Edison, Carr, and Crenshaw Schools.

Hamilton School, 2606 W. 182nd St., will take in part of the present Arlington and Crenshaw School areas.

Another drop in double sessions is expected later in 1959 with the expected opening of Lincoln School, 2418 W. 166th St. This will take some of the load from crowded Casimir School.

Parking Meters Take Xmas Vacation