

# Satellite Explosion Lights Sky

TORRANCE — An exploding booster rocket from a Navy satellite lighted Torrance skies Tuesday night, prompting hundreds of telephone calls to police switchboards and newspapers.

## Fourth Death Logged

TORRANCE — This city's traffic death toll mounted to four this week as a 69-year-old pedestrian succumbed to accident injuries suffered Friday.

Dead is Robert A. Hamilton, 1639 1/2 Cabrillo Ave. Police say Hamilton walked into the path of a car on Torrance Blvd. near Cravens Ave.

The driver was not held. Hamilton was in critical condition at Harbor General Hospital with head injuries. He died Monday.

In another accident, a Lomita man was booked on suspicion of felony hit-run driving after a teen-age pedestrian was injured.

Jailed is Charles R. Bell, 29, of 2018 W. Pacific Coast Highway. California Highway Patrolmen said Bell's truck struck 16-year-old Louis Meadors while the youth walked on Lomita Blvd.

Meadors, 1653 W. 227th St., is in satisfactory condition at Harbor General Hospital with internal injuries, police say.

Witnesses said Bell fled the accident scene, but the truck was spotted shortly afterward.

The twisting, blue flame trailed colorfully into a ball of bright, white light, creating a phenomenon previously unseen in Southland skies.

Residents as far north as San Francisco and as far east as Utah got a peek at the display, but Torrance residents got the best look of all.

The Navy said the explosion was created by its Transit 5-A satellite, carried into orbit by an Air Force Blue Scout 4-stage rocket.

Colored spirals of flame, laced with vapor trails from first and second stages of the rocket's flight, and the display rivaled any Fourth of July exhibition ever recorded.

Air force spokesmen said the display would not have been visible except that the descending sun's rays caught the rocket as it shot skyward shortly before 5:30 p.m.

The Transit weighs 38,000 pounds and is 74 feet tall.

## HOLIDAY ADVERTISING DEADLINES

Deadlines for both display and classified advertising will be advanced a day for the Dec. 27 and Jan. 3 editions of the Torrance Press so employees may enjoy the holidays with their families.

Closing time for display and classified ads will be at 5 p.m. Dec. 24 for the Dec. 27 edition and 5 p.m. Dec. 31 for the Jan. 3 edition.

## Between the Lines

By THE STAFF  
"For Adults Only" department:

The Turkish Information Office in New York has wished members of the press a Merry Christmas by sending 45 rpm records titled "Seasons Greetings from Turkey."

Naturally, a news story is included in the package.

"Contrary to popular belief," the story tells American readers, "Santa Claus did not originate at the North Pole."

"You guessed it. He's from Turkey. And so shatters another illusion."

Those Red Cross people are fine folks, but they've let all that blood business get the best of them.

A news release calling public focus on a series of Sunday blood banks gives readers this bit of grisly assurance:

"Give blood on Sunday, and you can be sure it will be flowing in somebody else's veins within a week."

Funny, I just remembered a prior engagement.

A pleasant voice answers "Merry Christmas" when you phone City Hall these days.

But the varied reactions have made city officials wonder if the greeting shouldn't be replaced with a routine "good morning."

Some callers are so taken that they forget who they're calling. Others are triggered into involved conversation ranging from Christmas shopping to vacation plans.

Greeted with the seasonal "Merry Christmas," one man answered, "And a Happy Hanukkah to you, too."

A Happy Hanukkah to you, Alexan er Graham Bell.

There's a new look in Christmas shoplifting.

One local businessman reports men donning Women's attire (complete with shopping bag and small child) to make their larcenous rounds.

You can usually spot a wolf in sheep's clothing, but a man in woman's clothing . . . good luck!



TORRANCE SKIES are lighted by exploding booster rockets from Navy Transit 5-A satellite, carried into orbit from Point Arguello. Although sightings of phenomenon were reported in Santa Barbara, San Francisco and Utah, Torrance residents got best look of all.

Parachute formation, which occurred shortly after sundown Tuesday, prompted thousands of telephone calls to police stations, newspapers and other communications media. —PRESS photo by Don Kirkland

THE ONLY NEWSPAPER IN THE WORLD DEVOTED TO TORRANCE



# TORRANCE PRESS

3238 SEPULVEDA BLVD. — Phone DA 5-1515

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SANTA, 1962 STYLE, gets a lift from county firemen as he begins rounds in Carson area. Santa's visits are sponsored by members of County Fire Department's Carson station, where he temporarily parks sleigh and reindeer in favor of quicker transportation. Fire-

man-driver is Art Heckethorn. Santa will deliver candy to youngsters through this week, according to co-sponsoring Carson Chamber of Commerce. —PRESS photo by William Schell Jr.

## Hospital Move Slightly Late

CARSON—Harbor General Hospital will move from its "temporary" headquarters Jan. 25, but the changeover will be slightly overdue.

The move originally was scheduled in 1950, but lack of a new home delayed it some 13 years.

County officials, who have scheduled dedication ceremonies for their new, \$15 million hospital facility Jan. 14, say it will rival the biggest and best county hospitals in the nation.

A. L. Thomas, hospital administrator, said the move from present World War II, 75-acre, 101-building Army barracks will be accomplished in three days, Jan. 25 through 27.

The new facility adjoins the old hospital on Carson St. between Normandie and Vermont Aves.

It serves a population area of approximately a million, comprising most of Southwest Los Angeles County.

Some 600 county and city officials will participate in groundbreaking ceremonies Jan. 14, with Supervisor Burton W. Chace, in whose district the hospital lies, as master of ceremonies.

Members of the public have been invited to attend. Program begins at 10:30 a.m.

## CITY COUNCIL ACTION:

### Mass Reaction Delays Victor Plan Approval

TORRANCE — Mass opposition of area property owners has temporarily halted the city's master plan for Victor Precinct.

Councilmen, originally expected to okay the plan Tuesday night, withheld action until a council study committee could iron out wrinkles which triggered resident disapproval.

Presented by Planning Director Charles Shartle, the plan would bring rezoning from M-1 manufacturing to C-3 commercial and R-3 residential along many streets bounded generally by Del Amo Blvd., Henrietta St., Torrance Blvd. and Hawthorne Blvd.

Spokesmen for the opposition objected on various grounds, but generally agreed that rezoning would not be compatible with present usage.

An attorney representing

between the city and the utility over a proposed site for South Bay State College.

Major Albert Isen attacked Gov. Brown's omission of Torrance in a recent study on urban affairs, saying a letter should be sent Brown expressing dissatisfaction.

"We're being ignored," Isen said, "and I resent it. His motion won unanimous approval."

Councilmen authorized city employees to take half a day off either the day before New Year's or the day before Christmas.

PLEASE — YOUR HELP  
Press Photographer William Schell Jr. has lost a wallet containing currency and important papers.

The finder is asked to return the papers, important to Schell's work, with no questions asked.

## Traffic Scoreboard

Accidents	Last Week	This Year	Last Year
		So Far	Total
Fatal	1	4	10
Injury	7	480	486
Non-Injury	23	639	692
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>1123</b>	<b>1188</b>

## Find Bank Getaway Car

TORRANCE — Police today found a 1957 Chevrolet used Tuesday in the \$25,000 holdup of a Hollywood Riviera Bank.

There was no trace of the gunmen.

Detectives said the getaway car was found parked

at the rear of a market near Sepulveda and Palos Verdes Blvds., only a matter of blocks from the holdup scene.

Three gunmen, each wearing a hood and carrying an automatic pistol, robbed the South Redondo Beach branch of Bank of America

in a daring, mid-day holdup, then fled in a stolen car.

Police said the car was stolen Monday from Roy W. Harper, a Gardena resident.

It was turned over to Redondo Beach detectives and agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation for a fingerprint examination.