

# New Fire Alarm Network Being Installed

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Torrance

# Press-Herald

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**FIRE ALARM SYSTEM** . . . Councilman Ken Miller, chairman of the council's Police and Fire Committee, and Fire Chief J. J. Benner inspect one of the new telephone fire alarm boxes being installed in the city. With them is H. P. Humphreys, special services consultant with Pacific Telephone Co. The new system, being installed by Pacific and General Telephone Companies, includes 100 alarm boxes. It will be put into service about Aug. 1. (Press-Herald Photo)

## Telephone Alarm System To be Operational Soon

Installation of the first phase of a city-wide network of fire alarm call boxes is expected to be completed about Aug. 1, Fire Chief J. J. Benner announced Friday.

The system, operated by telephone, is being installed by Pacific and General Telephone Companies for the city. Benner said 100 bright red call boxes will be located strategically throughout the city. Sixty-two of the boxes are being installed by Pacific Telephone Co., while General Telephone Co. is installing the remaining 38 boxes.

EACH CALL box will be wired directly to the Torrance Fire Department's dispatch center, located at the main fire station, 1701 S. Crenshaw Blvd. The center, designed and installed by Pacific, includes a specially

designed switchboard and an emergency power supply.

Benner said the system can be expected to "save community property owners thousands of dollars in fire insurance annually," as well as provide direct communications between persons reporting a fire and fire department dispatchers.

Jim Leggett, local manager for Pacific, said the boxes are simple to operate. "All a person has to do when he reports a fire is to open the door of the box and left the telephone receiver." A light on the switchboard tells the dispatcher the location of the box.

AFTER THE person describes the nature of the fire, the dispatcher can send the proper amount and kind of equipment.

Phases two and three of the new system provide for additional call boxes to be installed near schools and other important locations in the city, Benner said.

The chief warned against misuse of the telephone alarm system. He said an automatic device records the date, time, and location of the call box immediately after the receiver is picked up. In addition, a tape recording automatically is made of each incoming call.

False reporting or misuse of the telephone alarm system is punishable under state and city law, Benner warned. Normally, such a crime is a misdemeanor, but it becomes a felony if any person is injured as a result of a false call.

## Burglar Takes Jewelry

### Accordion, Golf Clubs Missing

Jewelry, clothing, an accordion, and golf clubs—worth more than \$2,500—were taken from the home of Arthur Santo Friday by a burglar who entered through the bathroom window.

Santo, who lives at 18224 Fairview Ave., told police the theft occurred while he was at work. Police said a bathroom window which had been left open provided the burglar with entrance to the home.

Taken were a man's ring worth about \$300, a \$1,100 accordion, golf clubs worth \$225, and Mrs. Santo's wedding and engagement rings, valued at \$650. Santo also reported \$100 worth of coins and about \$135 in clothing missing.

A 17-YEAR-OLD North Torrance youth reported two guns and a \$500 coin collection missing Friday. Robert H. Becker III of 18309 Purche Ave. told his father he last saw the missing items Thursday.

The elder Becker told Torrance Police a .410 shotgun and a .22-calibre rifle were taken, along with a coin collection with a face value of about \$500.

Police also were investigating reports of five thefts from cars in the area. Burglars removed stereo tape recorders from the cars.



**DING-DONG-BOOM!** . . . These are the sounds that will typify another Fourth of July celebration in Torrance, as shown by 8-year-old Lorie Higgins and her brother, Joey, who is 3. The reminder of what all the noise is about is kept silently but strongly in the background.

## Three-Car Crash Leaves One Dead

A Redondo Beach man left turn at the Carson Street-Amapola intersection when he was hit from behind. The accident occurred about 5:20 p.m.

Robert J. Centers, 21, of 19408 Entradero St., suffered a cut above one eye about 9:15 p.m. Friday when he was involved in a three-car accident at Carson Street just east of Plaza del Amo.

Police said Centers apparently hit a parked car at 2321 W. Carson St., then struck a car driven by Jose A. Reyes, 40, of 20821 Margaret St. Reyes, who was traveling east on Carson Street, was uninjured.

Several other minor traffic accidents were reported Friday afternoon and evening, police reported. No other injuries were noted.

## Thief Takes Ingredients For Party

Residents of a Torrance apartment building were left without some of the ingredients for their Fourth of July party Friday night by a burglar who entered the building's social room.

Several bottles of "firewater" were taken from an apartment building at 20900 Anza Ave.

Among the missing bottles were four fifths of champagne, a fifth of gin, and two fifths of bourbon.

## Major Damage Caused at One Riviera Home

Fireworks were blamed for some 50 fires throughout the city as of early yesterday, the Torrance Fire Department reported.

While most of the fires involved nothing more than

from duty for three or four days.

Battalion Chief Ray Flagg told the Press-Herald yesterday that 6,327 man-hours had been recorded by fire department personnel in fighting the fireworks-caused blazes. That total, Flagg said, does not include time involved in Friday's alarms.

(Picture on page 2)

weeds and dry grass, five homes were damaged — one of them extensively—in the series of blazes.

One fireman has been injured and two juveniles arrested as a result of the four-day series of blazes which began June 28—the day fireworks stands were opened throughout the city.

MOST SEVERE damage was reported Wednesday afternoon when fireworks touched off a fire on the roof of the Leslie Lovell home at 326 Via Colusa. Damage was estimated at \$20,000. The blaze was reported shortly after 2 p.m. and was the first of four fires in the Riviera section.

During the afternoon other fires were reported at 340 Via Colusa, 305 Camino de las Colinas, and 231 Camino de las Colinas. Damage to all three homes was between \$100 and \$200.

A fifth residential fire was reported Friday afternoon at 406 Camino de Encanto. Damage was minor.

FLAGG ALSO said the Fire Prevention Bureau had acted to remove the fireworks responsible for the blazes from the market. The small device, one of the less expensive types, can easily be converted into a missile-like object, Flagg said.

Two juveniles, an 11-year-old boy and his 12-year-old companion, were arrested Wednesday when they were seen throwing lighted fireworks onto the roof of an apartment building in the Riviera area. The youths reportedly admitted setting one fire, but denied knowledge of the others. Both were released to their parents.

Largest of the grass fires occurred at Crenshaw Boulevard and 164th Street. Firemen, assisted by units from the Los Angeles County Fire Department, extinguished the flames in about 20 minutes.

## Entertainment Permit Denied By Councilmen

The City Council Wednesday denied an appeal for an entertainment permit at the Bounty Room bar, 4419 Torrance Blvd.

The appeal was filed by Don Bartelme, owner of the bar. The city's License Review Board previously had denied Bartelme's application for the permit.

Wednesday's action followed a formal public hearing. The vote was unanimous.

## It's Time to Celebrate . . .

Government offices, banks, and most other firms in the city will be closed tomorrow in observance of Independence Day. The Press-Herald offices will be closed, but no change in news or advertising deadlines is made. City rubbish collection crews will make normal Monday pickups, but city officials have asked residents to put their trash on the curb by 8 a.m. to facilitate collections.

## Board Meeting Delayed . . .

The Torrance Board of Education will convene at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday for its regular meeting. The board, which normally meets on the first and third Monday each month, will meet Tuesday this week because of the Independence Day holiday.

## Councilmen to Convene . . .

Torrance City Councilmen will meet Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. for their regular weekly session. One hearing is scheduled during the meeting. It involves a change of zone on property located on the northeast corner of Hawthorne Boulevard and 230th Street. Owners of the property, now zoned R-3 and C-2, are asking that the entire parcel be zoned C-3.

## Narcotics Investigation Ends with Four Arrests

Three 19-year-old Torrance youths and a 16-year-old West High student were arrested Friday by Torrance Police, ending a five-week investigation into the sale of marijuana in the Torrance area.

Arrested Friday were: Thomas Eugene Harris, 19, of 3101 Opal St., Phillip Anderson, 19, of 4530 W. 191st St., and John Van Leuvan, 19, of 20359 Anza Ave.

Harris, Anderson, and the juvenile were charged with

conspiracy to sell narcotics and the sale of marijuana. Van Leuvan was held on a charge of furnishing a narcotic drug.

The four were arrested Friday under warrants issued by South Bay Municipal Court Judge Raymond Choate. Bail for the three 19-year-olds was set at \$8,250 each.

The arrests ended an undercover investigation which Torrance narcotics officers said had been under way for five weeks.

## Schidler Nominated for New Federal Court Post

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge John Schidler of Torrance is up for appointment to a new federal judgeship, it was announced here Wednesday.

He has been recommended to President Johnson as federal court appointee by the California Democratic House Delegation and by Gov. Edmund G. "Pat" Brown, and would fill one of three new Southern California judgeships established by Congress in April.

Schidler, of 317 Camino de las Colinas, has been on the bench for about 25 years, starting as a city judge in Torrance. He later became judge of the old Gardena justice court and was a South Bay Municipal Court judge before his appointment to the Superior Court bench in November, 1960. He also was a member of the Torrance Board of Education.

President Johnson is not expected to announce his nominee for about a month.



MEANWHILE . . . Back at the fire station, C. W. Brennan, a fire inspector with the Torrance Fire Department, takes a look at the new switchboard installed as part of the fire alarm system. The switchboard gives dispatchers instant contact with persons reporting fires. The new board also is equipped with automatic devices to record calls. (Press-Herald Photo)