

New Construction at Lowest Point in Years

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Torrance

Press-Herald

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UNEQUALED CIRCULATION
AND EDITORIAL COVERAGE

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FATAL ACCIDENT ... On-lookers crowd around a car driven by Thomas E. Battley, 49, as police work to free the injured man. Battley was partially pinned under the dashboard after his car went out of control Wednesday afternoon at Hawthorne Boulevard and 190th Street. He died at Little Company of Mary Hospital about 4:15 Wednesday. The accident occurred about 2 p.m. (Photo by Gerard Burchard)

Driver Pinned in Car By Crash, Dies Later

Rule Fatal Gun Blast Accidental

The shotgun blast which took the life of a 19-year-old Torrance youth a week ago was accidental, a Kern County inquest has determined.

Coroner Stanley Newman of Kern County ruled that Gary R. Bache, 19, of 20910 Anza Ave., was negligent in handling the gun which was fired accidentally, killing Richard Hoffman, 2460 Park Ave.

Hoffman was killed when a blast from Bache's gun struck him in the face.

The shooting occurred last Sunday as the two youths were camping near Lake Isabella with two companions.

Bache said he had cocked the shotgun to fire at a bird, then lowered the gun to his lap without firing. Bache testified at the inquest that Hoffman swung his gun toward him, and when he moved to ward it off, his own gun discharged.



THE SMOG STORY ... Supervisor Kenneth Hahn (left) and Ralph Nader, automobile safety expert and author of "Unsafe at Any Speed," review the 13-year correspondence between Hahn and presidents of the major automobile manufacturers. Hahn's actions in the field of air pollution control have sparked a federal anti-trust investigation into the development of control devices and are the subject of a chapter in Nader's best-seller.

Vehicle Slams Across Crowded City Boulevard

A Torrance man was killed Wednesday afternoon when his car apparently went out of control at Hawthorne Boulevard and 190th Street.

Thomas E. Battley, 49, of 5906 Pacific Coast Hwy., was pronounced dead at Little Company of Mary Hospital at 4:15 p.m. The accident occurred about 2 p.m.

Police said Battley was traveling west on 190th Street and apparently lost control of his car as he tried to turn right onto Hawthorne Boulevard. The car struck a center divider, then collided with a car driven by Warren Jess, 28, of Simi, as it entered the northbound lanes on Hawthorne Boulevard.

not stop, was uninjured.

TWO PERSONS were injured early yesterday after the car in which they were riding slammed into a tree at 190th Street just east of Hawthorne Boulevard.

John Gene Crowell, 23, of Fountain Valley, driver of the car, suffered minor bruises and cuts. A passenger, Sheri Evans, 21, of Westminster, sustained a possible broken nose. Both refused medical aid at the scene.

A second passenger, Janet E. Hiltz of Bellflower, escaped injury.

POLICE SAID the accident occurred about 4:30 a.m. as Crowell, driving north on Hawthorne Boulevard, turned right onto 190th Street. Officers said Crowell lost control of his car, struck the center divider, and slammed against two trees on the north side of 190th Street.

Crowell told officers someone tried to force him off the road, causing him to lose control of the car. Officers, however, said Crowell was traveling "at too great a speed" as he attempted to negotiate the turn.

THREE OTHER persons suffered minor injuries in two accidents Friday afternoon.

Lloyd W. Short, 8, of 23830 Park St., was treated at Little Company of Mary Hospital, then released to his parents after he was struck by a car at Hawthorne Boulevard and 242nd Street about 4:15 p.m.

Police said young Short darted into the street in front of a car driven by James W. Beagin, 19, of Palos Verdes Estates. The youth was not in the crosswalk, officers said.

Beagin told police he did not stop, was uninjured. (Continued on A-2)

Sea-Aire Golf Shop Raided By Burglars

Thieves broke into a storage room at the Sea Aire Golf Course, 22730 Lupine Drive, early yesterday and took an undetermined amount of equipment.

Joe Robertson, a custodian at the golf course, told police the theft occurred between 4 p.m. Friday and 3 a.m. yesterday. He said a door to the storage area had been forced.

Recreation Department officials will survey equipment in the building in order to determine what was taken, police reported.

ALMOST \$200 in cash was reported stolen Friday and

burglars walked off with a plate glass window at the T. V. Studio, 2223 Torrance Blvd., but did not take anything. Police said bars on the window thwarted the burglar.

Donald G. Hibbard, 30, of Huntington Beach, told police someone broke into his car, parked in the 400 block of Paseo de la Playa, and took \$77 in cash. Police said the money was in the glove compartment in Hibbard's car.

Another \$120 in cash, identification cards, and a leather wallet were taken from Sharon Obney of 22328 Shady-croft Ave. Mrs. Obney said she left her wallet on the counter at a donut shop at 3948 W. Sepulveda Blvd. after making a purchase. She said she walked about a block before she discovered her wallet missing.

MRS. OBNEY returned to the shop, but was unable to find the wallet, officers were told.

A burglar who cut a screen and opened a window at 16685 Crenshaw Blvd. took a television set, several electrical appliances, clothing, and jewelry. Clebert McCrary told police. McCrary said he was visiting friends when the theft occurred Friday night.

Police also reported an attempted burglary in the central Torrance area. Someone threw a rock through a

Fifty-five Spartans On Straight-A List

Fifty-five students at South High School achieved a straight "A" average for the Spring semester, according to Dr. John Lucas, principal.

Included in the group were 18 freshmen, 11 sophomores, 10 juniors, and 16 seniors.

Also named to the school honor roll were 282 students who attained a "B" average.

FRESHMEN receiving all "As" were: Kenneth C. Austin, Patricia A. Geddes, Ernest D. Gutter, Patricia J. Harris, Jeffrey B. Mar, Karen S. Matsui, Jay A. Mercier, Jeannette N. Money, Paula L. Ogilby, Linda J. Olds, Debbie L. Purmont, Karen L. Sablin, Elena Sainz, Robert S. Saunders, William C. Seck.

Sets Meeting

Members of the city's Airport Commission will meet Thursday at 8 p.m. at the city hall, 3031 Torrance Blvd.

inger, Dennis R. Sullivan, and Cecilia A. Weislo.

Sophomores included: Susan G. Funtsch, Nora L. Goldsmith, Susan M. Joubert, Marcia L. Kirl, Steve A. Kofahl, Linda J. Kramer, Leslie A. Libbee, Robert W. Parker, Larry R. Regenfuss, Paul Satt, and Terry E. Thomas.

JUNIORS were: Mark J. Albramson, John R. Balow, Stephen C. Beach, Tim T. Chang, David P. Fuller, Gary W. Jung, Kenneth L. Marvin, Susan L. Peterson, Ellen B. Sednicka, and Trudy War-riner.

Seniors were: Judith A. Goldsmith, Sherrie L. Hale, Claudia R. Hoyt, Susan G. Hyde, Robert D. Jurmain, Paul F. Kaplan, Steve L. Kaplan, Marcia L. Mendelsohn, Sharon S. Morris, Edward C. Moss, Helene Neu, Claire A. Pera, Deena N. Perry, Lawrence Plon, Linda E. Schulman, and Rosemarie Sigel.

TO JUDGE SIGNS, BUILDINGS

Design Review Board Proposed in Torrance

A major report by the city's Planning Department on the "man-made urban ugliness" of signs has been referred to the Planning Commission for study by the City Council.

The report, lauded by members of the City Council, also will be studied by a special committee of councilmen, representatives of the Chamber of Commerce, architects, sign painting industry spokesmen, and members of several city commissions. The committee will be named at a later date.

Planning Director Charles M. Shartle said the report is one of six to be presented by his department as part of "a six-point program for aesthetic improvement within the city."

OTHER STUDIES, Shartle said, will cover underground

utilities, an architectural design review board, landscaping of public and private areas, improved street furniture, and oil well beautification.

"Over the past several years, Torrance has been confronted with the rapid growth of man-made urban ugliness," Shartle told the council. "It is probable," he added, "that numerous and garish signs contribute most heavily to this blight."

Shartle blames competition among commercial enterprises for the jungle of signs which has resulted. "Such competition," he declared, "leads only to the blight we are now beginning to observe in some sections... especially along Hawthorne Boulevard."

MAJOR recommendation of the report is the establishment of a Design Review Board of lay people, architects and designers, and members of the Planning Commission. Function of the board would be to review the architectural designs of all permanent structures and all permanent signs in the city.

An ordinance to control all aspects of signs would be "too cumbersome to be objective," Shartle declared. "A Design Review Board could pass on all permanent signs to see that they would be aesthetically compatible to the architectural design of the buildings and the character of the adjacent area."

IF THE recommendations of the Planning Department

Councilmen Get Plans For Church

Torrance Councilmen will be asked to approve a variance to permit construction of a church adjacent to the city's Civic Center during their session Tuesday.

The council will convene at 8 p.m. for their regular meeting. At 7 p.m. pre-council meeting also is on the agenda. The early meeting has been called to hear recommendations of the city's Library Commission about the future of library services in Torrance.

The variance for the church, which is seeking to build a new facility at the corner of Maricopa Street and Maple Avenue in an M-2 zone, has been recommended for denial by the city's Planning Commission.

The Rev. R. Wallis Kornegay, pastor of the Torrance First Church of the Nazarene, will ask the council to overrule the Planning Commission. He has described the church as "an excellent buffer" between the prime industrial land to the north and residential area to the south.

Residents in the area have expressed support for the church plan.

The Planning Commission voted to deny the variance June 15. Commissioners said they did not feel "that encroachment into this prime industrial area should be permitted."

The city's Planning Department also has recommended denial of the request.

Building Activity Hits Seven-Year Low in City

Construction activity in Torrance sunk to a 7½-year low in June, according to a report just released by the city's Building Department.

Permits valued at only \$939,555 were issued in June, John K. McKinnon, superintendent of building and safety, reported. The figure is the lowest recorded since November, 1958, when permits worth \$377,419 were issued.

The June totals brought to \$12.8 million the value of new construction begun during the first six months of 1965. For the first time this year, no new apartment units were begun during the month—and only nine new single-family homes were reported.

A TOTAL OF 222 new

dwelling units—122 homes and 100 apartment units—have been started during the first half of the year.

The largest single permit issued in June was taken out by Manor, Inc., for the construction of six homes on Illinois Court in North Torrance.

Only three of the 238 permits issued exceeded \$50,000 in value—including the permit issued to Manor, Inc., valued at \$146,330. Other large permits were issued to Deft, Inc., for an addition to the firm's facility at 620 Maple Ave., valued at \$62,000 and to the Los Angeles Construction Co., for a manufacturing building at 21811 Western Ave. It was valued at \$50,230.

HUGHES Aircraft Co., received permits for foundation work and a water cooling tower at its new Torrance site, 3100 Lomita Blvd. The two permits had a combined value of \$47,500. Pittsburgh Plate Glass Co., 465 S. Crenshaw Blvd., received a permit worth \$20,000 for additions to the firm's facility here, and a permit for additional facilities at the Volvo Western Distribution Center, 1955 W. 190th St., was issued. The Volvo permit is valued at \$22,200.

A general slowdown in the home building industry, occasioned by the current "tight money" policies, is blamed for the lack of new home and apartment construction.

Burglar Gets Movie Camera From Deputy

Theft of a movie camera and tools valued at \$400 was reported Friday by a deputy sheriff.

Richard J. Mardiros, 37 of North Torrance told Torrance police the movie camera and tool chest were stored in a carport cabinet area.

The theft occurred during the Fourth of July weekend, Mardiros reported.

IF THE recommendations of the Planning Department

Trio Win Redondo Honors

Lynne A. Frantz, promotion manager for South Bay Center, was named "Man of the Year" at the Redondo Beach Chamber of Commerce installation banquet Thursday night. Mrs. William F. Cuzlegar, wife of the city's mayor, was named "Woman of the Year" for her many philanthropic activities. Kenneth L. Johnson, recently appointed deputy to Supervisor Burton W. Chace, won the "Young Man of the Year" honors presented by the Junior Chamber of Commerce.

Church Pair Indicted

The Rev. Clarence T. Walberg of Hermosa Beach and the Rev. Wayne Davidson of Santa Ana were arraigned Thursday in Superior Court on one count of grand theft and fourteen counts of violating California's Corporate Securities Law. The indictments grew out of operations of the defunct Cup of Cold Water Ministry, Inc., and that organization's receipt of an estimated \$500,000 in donations and loans to purchase the Hermosa Biltmore Hotel. The two are scheduled to return for pleas on July 14.

Lomita Soldier Killed

Army Pfc. Curtis Brockington, son of Mrs. Alice P. Brockington, 1033 W. 256th St., Lomita, was killed in action in Viet Nam, the Department of Defense announced Friday. A medic in the 25th Infantry Division, Pfc. Brockington died of gunshot wounds on July 3. The 19-year-old soldier, a Narbonne High School graduate, was on duty near Pleiku when fatally wounded.