

# High-Rise Apartment Complex Approved

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# Press-Herald

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## 1 Killed, 140 Injured

# Explosions, Fire Hit Carson Refinery

## Three Torrance Holdups Linked To One Suspect

One man is believed responsible for three holdups in Torrance Wednesday night, even though witnesses' descriptions of the suspect varied somewhat from one incident to another.

At 8 p.m., a man in his early 20s, with long black hair combed straight back, held up Campisi Liquor, 3614 Pacific Coast

Hwy., to the tune of \$50. Attendant on duty told police the suspect carried a sawed-off shotgun, wore a white shirt, and sported a handlebar mustache. The mustache, however, had disappeared for a second holdup at a carry-out restaurant at 2760 Cabrillo Ave., shortly after 8 p.m. In this instance, the suspect wore a green cotton jacket and carried a blue steel revolver. But his hair was still combed straight back. He netted \$50.

In a third incident, about 10:15 p.m., the suspect held up another carry-out restaurant at 17912 Hawthorne Blvd., carrying away \$35. The handlebar mustache and the sawed-off shotgun had reappeared, and he sported the same black hair combed straight back. This time, however, he wore a black trench coat.

Several holdups in neighboring communities may be linked to the same suspect, Torrance police say.

## Church Home Okayed

A 14-story senior citizen apartment complex will rise in Torrance on the south side of Maricopa Street between Avis and Amie Avenues. A zone change to allow construction of the high-rise retirement home at the site was approved unanimously Tuesday by City Councilmen.

The mammoth structure will be built by the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints to provide low-cost housing for persons more than 62 years of age. The building's 180 units will shelter both couples and individuals. Maximum annual income for residents has been limited to \$4,400.

**COUNCILMAN** William J. Uerkwitz pointed out that the complex would do more good for the city if it could be located in the downtown area, instead of so close to the Del Amo center.

Architect Arthur Kensler, of the firm Parker, Kensler, and Parker, explained to the group that he and his clients had made an effort to locate the structure in downtown Torrance, but could find no place suitable for the purpose.

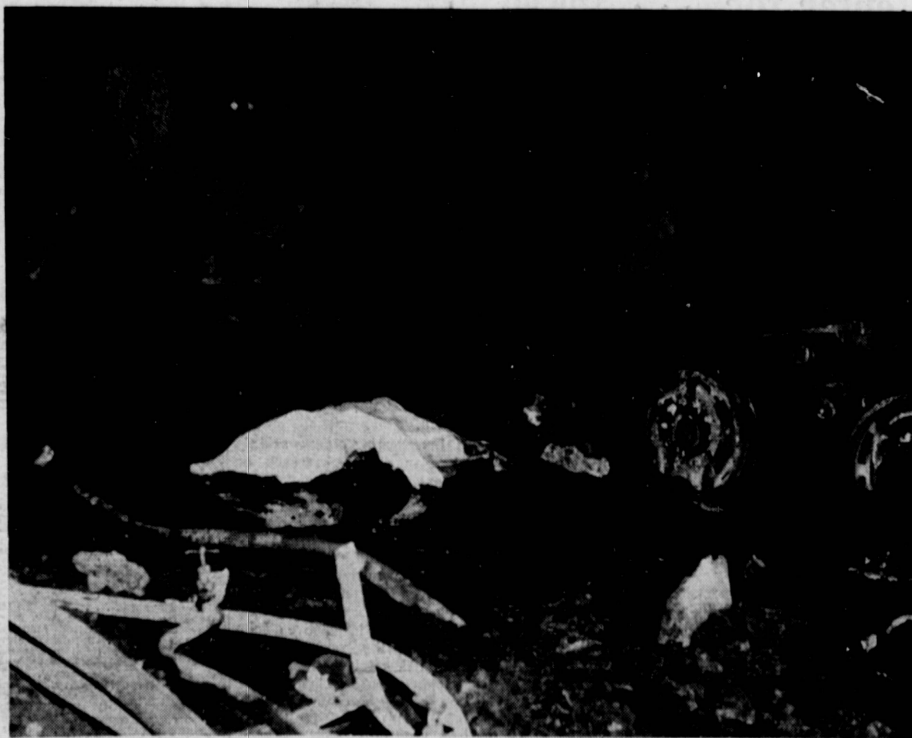
Bishop Clifton S. McArthur of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints confirmed this view, noting that he had met with city officials and downtown interests in an attempt to find a suitable spot downtown, but nothing acceptable could be arranged.

## Winning Bookplate Selected

Paula Korte, a student at Bishop Montgomery High School, has been selected as winner of the bookplate contest sponsored by the Torrance Library Commission.

Miss Korte's original bookplate design will be used in selected books at the Torrance Public Library. For her efforts, the Torrance teenager was presented with a copy of History of Art, by H. W. Janson.

Semi-finalists were Mary Pat Smith, Bishop Montgomery High; Kety Hori, North High; Patricia Murphy, Bishop Montgomery High; and Christine Walsh, South High. Each of them received Three Centuries of American Art by Lloyd Goodrich.



**CENTER OF BLAST** ... A spark from this tanker truck is believed now by officials to have set off the first of a series of explosions and fires which ravaged a Carson oil refinery Thursday evening. The covered body of the truck driver, 47-year-old Myron Chase of Long Beach, lies in the foreground. A Torrance man, Steven Yancy, 51, who was working nearby, was critically injured in

the initial blast. At least 140 other persons, many of them children and residents of the area who rushed to the scene to watch the fire, were treated for some kind of injury at area hospitals. At least three explosions rocked the refinery, located at 24721 S. Main St., before the fire was brought under control.

(Press-Herald Photo by Doug Huff)

## 'Queen' Will Radiate Grandeur, Opulence

The opulence and grandeur of Long Beach has for its illustrious new citizen.

Addressing the group was Fred Rosenberg, president of Diners/Queen Mary Corp., master lessee for the former queen of the seas. Rosenberg said the luxury liner will be fashioned into a major tourist attraction,

decorated and maintained with excellent taste to assure visitors of a unique experience in dining and relaxation year after year.

**ROSENBERG SAID** that the ship will not be open to the public until April, 1970, giving contractors ample time to remodel the liner's many banquet rooms and decks. A huge, ultra-modern "galley" kitchen will also be included in the new Queen Mary.

The lower decks of the Queen will be devoted to a marine museum, allowing visitors to peer into the long, illustrious career of the 32-year-old vessel.

In order to maintain the quality atmosphere aboard the Queen Mary, Rosenberg said, all employees (See 'QUEEN', Page A-2)

## Fan Blade Kills Area Mechanic

A freak accident at Union Carbide Plant, 3651 Del Amo Blvd., claimed the life of a Torrance mechanic Wednesday at 3:50 p.m.

Killed instantly when a huge fan began to whirl was Donald Ray Darrow, 30, of 2456 W. 237th St. Company officials told police the accident occurred while Darrow and another mechanic were working on a cooler fan motor.

Darrow was standing on one of the fan blades when his fellow worker accidentally stepped over a micro switch, setting the fan in motion.

The victim was pronounced dead at Little Company of Mary Hospital.

Darrow is survived by his wife Joyce and several children.

## Torrance Schools

### Kindergarten Round-ups Set

Kindergarten round-ups for youngsters who will be starting school next fall will be held at elementary schools throughout Torrance during the next two months.

Purpose of the event is to register students in advance and offer preliminary health screening.

To qualify for September entrance in kindergarten, children must be at least 5 years old on or before Dec. 2, 1969. Birth certificates or other proof of birth date is required.

**IN ACCORDANCE** with state law, all students must have polio inoculations before they start school. In addition, the law requires that an individual being

admitted for the first time in California as a pupil in any school district must present evidence of immunity to measles, either as a result of having had measles (rubeola) or of having been immunized against measles.

All pre-school children are advised to have an eye examination by a vision specialist.

Parents are advised to call the school in their attendance area to set up round-up appointments.

**SCHEDULES** are as follows: April 7 — Casimir; April 8, 9, 10 — Casimir, Lincoln; April 11 — Casimir, Meadow Park; April 14 — Arlington, Towers, Hill.

## City, County Units on Scene To Fight Blaze

Explosions and fires ravaged a Carson oil refinery last night, killing one man and injuring at least 140 other persons—some of them critically.

The first of the explosions occurred about 5:30 p.m. at the Fletcher Oil and Refinery Co., 24721 S. Main St., killing the driver of tanker truck and critically injuring a nearby workman.

Units from the Los Angeles county and city fire departments labored for nearly nine hours before finally bringing the ravaging fire under control.

**GASOLINE**, jet fuel, and oil storage tanks fed the blazing inferno and caused a flare-up shortly after midnight. The second big fire required nearly two hours to control, officials said.

The dead man was identified as Myron Chase, 47, of Long Beach. He died in the initial blast, which officials now believe was ignited by a spark from the tanker truck Chase was loading.

A Torrance man, Steven Yancy, 51, of 20813 Madrona Ave., was severely burned. He apparently was working near the tanker truck when the first explosion occurred.

**YANCY** was taken to Harbor General Hospital, suffering from burns over most of his body. He remains in critical condition there.

Officials from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department said a count early today showed 140 persons had been treated at area hospitals for some kind of injury. Many of them were children or residents of adjacent areas who rushed to the scene after the first explosion.

The injured were treated at

Wilmington Community, Bay Harbor, and Harbor General hospitals. Most of the injured were sent home after treatment.

**TWO FIREMEN** sustained severe injuries in the fight to control the blaze. They were identified as Harry Latham, 43, and Roy Weland, 43, both of the Los Angeles City Fire Department.

Seven other firemen sustained lesser injuries, officials reported.

The first explosion occurred at 5:27 p.m., sending a fireball some 800 feet in diameter 1,000 feet into the air.

Damage is believed to exceed \$1 million at the refinery.

**AN ATTENDANT** at a gas station less than a mile from the scene told a Press-Herald reporter, "Man, I'm not afraid to admit it. It scared the hell out of me."

A fireman from Los Angeles County Station No. 36 in Carson said the oil tanks were "popping like giant balls of popcorn for a while."

The assistant administrator at Harbor General Hospital said he watched the refinery area from the eighth floor of the hospital and could "feel the heat."

Many others reported hearing the explosions and feeling heat, some from as far away as five miles, according to one report.

**A FORMER** Press-Herald reporter said he was coming off the Palos Verdes hills when he saw the fireball from the first explosion. "It looked like south Carson and Wilmington were gone," he added.

The initial fires were reported controlled at 9:15 p.m., but a

(See FIRE, Page A-2)

## Services Slated For Bill Golden

Funeral services for A. C. "Bill" Golden, active Masonic and service club leader in Torrance and Gardena for more than a quarter of a century, will be held at McMillan Mortuary, 164th and Vermont in Gardena, at 11 a.m. Monday. Officiating will be the Rev. Hugh R. Percy, rector of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church of Torrance, and members of Torrance Masonic Lodge No. 447.

Mr. Golden was a native of Colorado where he was born 68 years ago. He died here Wednesday after living in the Torrance and adjacent communities for 45 years. He was a representative of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Co. here for 33 years before his death.

He was made a member of the Torrance Masonic Lodge in 1938 and had been a Shriner for many years. He was a past president of the El Toga Shrine Club, made up of Shriners living in the Torrance and Gardena communities.

A charter member of the Gardena Kiwanis Club, Mr. Golden served that group as its president and had a 25-year perfect attendance record. He also was on the board of managers for the Gardena YMCA and a member of the board of directors for



**BILL GOLDEN Dies, Rites Monday**

the Red Cross and United Crusade.

He is survived by his widow, Ruth, at the family home, 1125 W. 182nd St., Gardena; a son, Robert A. Golden, Gardena; two sisters, Mrs. Gayle Hines, Palm Springs, and Mrs. Esther Duncan, Idylwild; and three grandchildren.

Entombment has been scheduled in Angeles Abbey Mausoleum, Compton, following Monday's services. McMillan Mortuary is directing.



**GOOD TIMES PREDICTED** ... Fred Rosenberg (right), president of Diners/Queen Mary Corp., greets Isobel Bernay and Brian Bell following his talk Thursday before the Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce luncheon. Rosenberg, whose corporation is the master lessee for the Queen Mary project in Long Beach, spoke of economic good times ahead in predicting the success of the floating convention center. Rosenberg's presentation included a slide show with artists' conceptions of what the Queen will look like when remodeled. Mrs. Bernay is chairman of the Chamber's convention and visitors committee. Bell is chairman of the membership relations committee.

(Press-Herald Photo)