Brawl, Crash Mar Placid Holiday Weekend; Woman, Two Men Jailed

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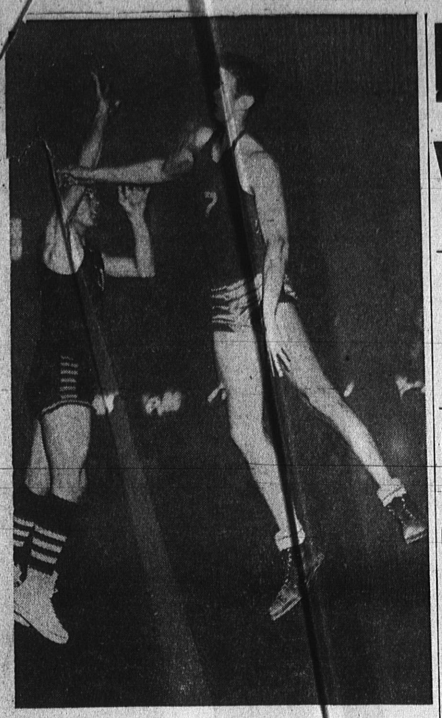
TODAY'S WEATHER

Partly cloudy with widely scattered showers. Continued cool with near freezing temperatures tonight. Temperature Tuesday night skidded to 31 degrees.



HE FLOATS THROUGH THE AIR . . . Brian McBride, Narbonne High School basketball player soars across the path of Torrance's Ronnie Higgins as the latter shoots a basket. Torrance Tartars won the important "inter-city" game 35-27. For complete details, see Page 4. —Herald photo.

BUSINESS TAX PROTESTED

Council Hears Objections to New License Fee

A score of verbal protests and 34 written communications against the newly enacted city business license were presented to the Torrance City Council at a special hearing on the matter Tuesday night.

In seeking an amendment or a revision to the ordinance several local business firms expressed their objections on three major points:

Curtailment of wholesale deliveries and other activities;

Excessive and double taxation on coin-operated vending machines; and

Unfair and discriminatory to business in the Torrance trading area not actually in the city limits.

After hearing the objections the council took the matter under study.

The wave of objections came after firms doing business in Torrance received notification of the 1950 license fees. The fees ranged from $24 to $50.

Claiming to be hit the hardest by the new license rate were a number of soft drink vending machine operators who objected to paying the $24 fee for each machine in operation here.

Several small neighborhood market operators claimed that if wholesalers were charged the higher rate ($50) the distributors would not deliver in Torrance and thus the local merchants variety of stock would be cut seriously.

Expressing their objection to the new ordinance were several contractors who live in the Shoestring Strip in Los Angeles.

They claimed they shopped in Torrance, banked here, and purchased construction materials from Torrance merchants and yet because they lived a few yards outside the city limits

(Continued on Page 3)

FIVE OF A KIND . . . Barry Purdy, (left) ponders how to mount his trusty steed when already four other Hopalong Cassidys at Torrance Elementary School have claimed the mount as their own wonder horse—"Topper." At least another score of Hoppys appeared the first day after Christmas vacation wearing the famous Hopalong garb. Other riders are (left to right) Larry Boots, Randy Archbold, Charles Sherfey, and Glenn Thomas Purdy. —Herald photo.

Court Trial Today For Assault Case; Lady Driver Held

New Year's week-end pinpoints of violence, interrupting the general holiday calm here in Torrance, erupted in divergent points throughout the city, and like an extended hangover, the memory lingers on.

To be tried before City Judge Otto B. Willett at 2 p.m. today is Willis Longshore, 47, of 18537 Regina street, who was arrested New Year's Eve after he had allegedly struck his stepdaughter over the head with a table leg.

According to police reports, the stepdaughter, Mrs. Freeda Myers, 17, and her groom of three months, went to the Regina street address to welcome the new year in the company of her mother and stepfather. During the course of the evening tempers flared, Mrs. Meyers told officers, and Longshore struck her on top of the head.

Police arriving at the scene described the house and furnishings in a state of disarray following the quarrel. They were summoned by neighbors.

Booked with Longshore on charges of disturbing the peace and battery was Joseph W. Kaskins, 22, of Venice. Both pleaded not guilty at an arraignment held here Tuesday. Bail was set at $1000.

Meal Cost $30

Gerald L. Zink, 27, of 2108 Martina street, was fined 30 dollars and given a 30 days suspended sentence in the Gardena Justice Court, after he was found guilty of failure to pay a $1.85 check at a Lomita restaurant. Sheriff's deputies said Zink escaped the restaurant, running in an "erratic" manner.

Holiday Traffic Here Was Almost 'Perfect'

Scheduled to appear before City Judge Otto B. Willett this week to answer to a drunk driving charge is Pearl Vernon, 54, of 3462 Emerald street. Vernon, the only reported offender of this type during the New Year's Eve hours, was arrested at the corner of Marcelina and Cravens avenues.

Five-Car Wreck Blamed on Tipsy Woman Driver

For Mrs. Phyllis Ryan Cartwright, this New Year's Eve was a quiet one. According to local police, the six-foot, 190-pound Lomita woman had her big night Friday, December 30.

Booked on a drunken driving charge, Mrs. Cartwright's actions had precipitated a five-car smashup in the Walteria fog, she had thrown a full grown man into a car, and she, herself, was run over by a heavy sedan.

According to Torrance police reports, it all happened this way:

Two cars being driven by Fernando Flerez, 40, of Hollywood, and George Frazier, 40, of Los Angeles, rammed each other while their drivers sought to avoid the car assertedly being driven on the wrong side of the road by Mrs. Cartwright. The accident occurred on Highway 101 near Newton street.

Leaping from his car, Frazier attempted to take the ignition keys from the Cartwright auto. The big lady would have none of it. She hurled Frazier back into his car, leaped into her own and proceeded down Highway 101.

Some 200 yards later she collided headon with an auto driven by George S. Melville, 53, of Beverly Hills. While discussing the collision in front of Melville's car, the auto was struck from behind by a car driven by Virginia Field, of Palos Verdes. Mrs. Cartwright was thrown to the ground and witnesses said the Melville car passed over her legs.

Mrs. Cartwright, was taken to Harbor General Hospital, where her injuries were described as minor.

She was sentenced to 10 days in jail and was ordered to pay for repairs of the four damaged cars.

WRIST WATCHES FOUND

Two wrist watches are waiting at the Torrance Police Station for the arrival of their owners. Police relieved two boys of the watches after the youths were caught stealing them at an impromptu touchball game at El Prado park.

Honeymoon Cut as Neighbors Swap Wives in Nevada

A National Supply employee is settling back into the old domestic grind after swapping wives with his neighbor in Las Vegas this week.

David J. Hardy, 43, an inspector in the inspection department at the local plant, married the wife of his Los Angeles neighbor, Howard W. Moore, 35.

The two men shed their spouses and then remarried in New Year's rites last week-end.

Mrs. Frances Louise Hardy, 35, and Mrs. Leno Moore, 31, lived together in Nevada during the required six weeks of residence prior to the divorces.

They had lived next door to each other in Los Angeles for about five years. They each had been married about 11 years.

Asked if the rites were double ceremonies, the new Mrs. Hardy replied:

"That would have been a little too much out of the ordinary. As it is now it is going to be a great surprise to our friends."

The strange marital twist came about during the years the Moores and Hardys were neighbors. The couples played pinochle together and enjoyed swimming and barbecues in their backyards.

"It just worked out that Howard is a quiet sort of a guy, a wonderful man, who is more Frances' type," the ex-Mrs. Moore—now Mrs. Hardy said. "David and I always seemed to hit it off so well."

Both the Moores and the Hardys expressed the opinion that their friendship would continue although the Hardys reported they may move from their old neighborhood.

The Hardys received joint custody of their seven-year-old son while the Moores were given joint custody of their two sons, 11 and five.

Registration of Bicycles Due Now

Bicycle owners, both those with new ones and old ones, were reminded by Police Chief John Stroh yesterday that the vehicles must be licensed immediately.

Owners of the two-wheeled vehicles may register them this Saturday morning from 9 a.m. till noon at the Torrance Police Station. The bicycles must be brought to the station.

A fee of 50 cents is charged for new registrations—25 cents for renewal. No sales slip is needed. Parents need not accompany their children, Stroh said.

DEATH OF ARMY MAJOR REVEALED

A veteran of 23 years Army service, Major Frank R. Gunn, formerly of Torrance, is said to have died of a self inflicted bullet wound, December 27 in Vienna, according to a U. S. Army headquarters release.

Gunn, who had served in Austria for nearly three years, left no indication of the motive for his act. He was attached to the Economic Division of Army Headquarters in Austria.

With Kids—It's Hoppy Suits, 2-1

As 4000 children trundled back to school Tuesday, teachers were certain of one thing—Hopalong Cassidy had become an institution.

At Torrance Elementary School a large herd, ranging from five to six hands high, proudly galloped about the grounds wearing Christmas gifts of the white trimmed black garb of the famous western movie and television star.

One teacher contended:

"As I look across my classroom I feel a little out of place without a leather skirt and boots."

Although not ten days old some of the suits were beginning to show signs of affectionate wear. And costly wear it was, too. Mamas and daddies, and grandparents also, had shelled out as much as $45 for a complete but small size copy of the garb worn by the greatest of the range riders—Hopalong Cassidy.

Everywhere (at Walteria, Perry School, and Seaside School) it was the same shout "OK, boy. I got'cha. You're dead," as the little Cassidy fans trotted clippty-clop, slapping their imaginary mounts over the gravel range of the school grounds.

How does little Joey, Jimmy, and Jackie feel about their idol? If they were asked who could beat who, Hoppy or their own Dad, odds would be 9-1 that the silver-haired hero would take the nod.

Disgusted at being forced with doing anything so juvenile as going to school, many of the young cowboys enjoyed one thing on returning to classes. Just like the screen and picture-tube cowboys in "reel" life the small cow punchers were required to park their shooting irons at the door

Steel Publicist Promotion Told

Promotion of Frank A. Bu[illegible] publicity director for Colum[illegible] Steel Company at Los Ang[illegible] to the post of Director of P[illegible] Relations for U.S. Steel's [illegible] divisions in this area w[illegible] company

Board Reports School Plans

A group of Walteria residents attending the Board of Education meeting Tuesday night were informed bids for the new Walteria School would be called for by the end of the month.

Dr. J. Henrich Hull reported that although the State Department of Architecture had retained the plans for checking longer than was expected it was anticipated that the new school would be ready in the fall.

Other reports on school construction included word from the superintendent that the Board had ordered plans drawn for a cafeteria at Torrance Elementary school.

It was believed that the proposed school for the Kettler Knolls district would relieve some of the congestion at Torrance Elementary School. This would permit the conversion of three classrooms into a muchly needed cafeteria.

(See Story Page Two)

LIVING SYMBOL . . . Members of the current YMCA Support Campaign and Membership Drive discuss the drive with youthful Gene Dennis whose picture appears on the thousands of posters and placards publicizing the campaign. Seated left to right are: R. L. Plomert Jr., initial gifts chairman; W. T. "Hap" Tillotson, campaign chairman; and William H. Tolson, chairman of the Board of Managers of the local YMCA. Standing at left is L. Milton Isbill, executive secretary of the Torrance Branch of the young men's group.

Kiwanis To Install New Leaders Saturday Night in Beach Club

Five new Kiwanis club officers and seven new members of the board of directors will take office for 1950 at a dinner-dance installation to be held January 7 at the Hollywood-Riviera Country Club.

Heading the list of officers is Bob L. Haggard, local realtor and city councilman. He was elected to guide the club's activities as president during 1950.

Other officers to be installed include J. Parke Montague, vice president; Paul Loranger, second vice-president; [illegible]

[illegible] Merchandise
[illegible] Prices
Prove it to Yourself
Come in Today and See

2 lb 1c

FOR COOKING OR EATING
Pippin Apples
6 lbs. 25c

Chief Warns Of All Night Parking

A warning to motorists who park their cars on the streets all night, was issued yesterday afternoon by Police Chief John Stroh.

"Our street department reports they are unable to clean many of the city's streets because of all night parking. Commencing this week we will be forced to cite those who park on streets where 'No Parking' signs have been erected."