

# TEEN-AGE DOPE RING SMASHED AS POLICE JAIL FOUR YOUTHS

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# Sissy Warning System Does Big Flopperoo During Disaster Test



(Herald Photo)

**STREET SCENE . . .** This is what civil defense officials hoped would happen when air raid warnings sounded in downtown Torrance Thursday morning; the streets were cleared of most traffic. But observers were quick to point out that it was the early hour and not the feeble sirens that was responsible for the lack of people on the sidewalks. The raid test was termed a flop.

## Need for Better Warning System Seen In Fiasco

Torrance's first test of a civil defense warning system Thursday lived up to all expectations—a dismal flop.

A few scattered sirens screamed, some whistles tooted, but no one heard them—or at least no one cared. For people walking the streets overwhelmingly said:

"What air raid alert. I didn't hear anything."

Assistant Civil Defense Director George Powell said that he was not surprised with the poor results of the noise makers.

"Possibly the city will be receptive to new ideas on a warning system now that we have seen the failure of the present devices," Powell said.

### Test a Fluke

From start to finish, the entire test, planned by Los Angeles CD boss, Admiral Richard level. Pre-arranged plans with Berry, was a fluke on the local local industrial plants to sound their warning devices either were inadequate or the plants failed to follow instructions.

No official "red alert" warning—three minute modulating siren wail or short whistle blasts—was sounded in the city. No real indication of an all-clear ever was heard.

National Supply's frog-toned steam whistle was heard clearly in downtown areas, but workers at the plant failed to heed its warning.

### Siren Silent

The fire department's large roof-top siren was not sounded; danger that the rusty siren blades might fly apart, injuring someone on the street below.

Loudest noise-maker in the town, a siren at the Naval Supply Depot, failed to sound.

Original idea of the test—as told to newspapers by CD headquarters—was to give a real workout to every phase of the disaster set-up, from communications to traffic control.

Here, sirens were sounded at a pre-arranged time, not waiting until "official alert" words were transmitted from the Los Angeles headquarters in order to test effectiveness of the present communication system.

No traffic or pedestrian control was attempted, because the State Attorney General ruled that such a practice might put the city in jeopardy should an accident occur.

## Plan Reception For Congressman, Mrs. Cecil King

A reception honoring Congressman and Mrs. Cecil R. King will be held Tuesday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ed L. Schwartz, 2487 W. Carson St., at which many leaders of industry, business executives, and prominent citizens have been invited.

Mrs. Ella Schwartz, hostess for the reception, is a Democrat. State Central Committee woman. More than 60 guests are expected, she said.



(Herald Photo)

**GOOD GRASS . . .** Found in a Torrance back yard were these tall marijuana plants, inspected here by Detective Sgt. D. C. Cook. Owner of the land where the specimens were discovered told police he was unaware that they were marijuana plants. He was not held, Cook warned that heavy penalties are imposed on anyone found guilty of wilfully growing "grass."

## Reservations For Legion Dinner Due

Deadline for submitting reservations for the free "Korean Vet" dinner-dance to be held at the Legion Hall Saturday night is tomorrow, according to Legion Commander Harry Green.

Planned for the "welcome home dinner" Saturday is a menu of turkey "with all of the trimmings." The Legion Auxiliary will serve the dinner.

Veterans of the Korean War and members of the American Legion and Auxiliary are being invited to attend the dinner free with their husbands or wives.

Planning the dinner-dance for the Korean Vets is a committee composed of N. C. Crawford, R. C. Sloan, J. A. Dodson, L. J. O'Hara, and E. K. Cunningham. Reservations should be sent to the American Legion at 1109 Border Ave.

## Vincent Thomas Says Funds for Armory Sought

Construction of an armory for Torrance may be started some time during the fiscal year of 1953-54 if funds requested of the State Legislature are granted. A assemblyman Vincent Thomas told the Herald yesterday.

Quoting from a letter he had received from Earle M. Jones, Adjutant General of California, Assemblyman Thomas said that the Adjutant General's office had included funds to build an armory here in its request of items to be included in the capital outlay portion of the next budget.

Thomas said it was indicated that additional Federal funds will be available for Federal State armory construction during the year, and that if the Legislature approves the requesters.

## Watch Your Cow

# Department Readies Prevention Tactics

(See Pictures, Page 4)

Eighty-one years ago to the day—on Wednesday, Oct. 8—an old gray cow leaped her tail, kicked her foot and made history!

In 1871, Mrs. O'Leary's famous cow knocked over a small coal oil lantern and started a fire which claimed at least 300 lives and burned to the ground most of the metropolis of Chicago.

So this week, in recognition of that fiery event, the Torrance Fire Department joins with organizations all over the country in an all-out campaign to reduce the annual fire loss—during Fire Prevention Week.

Business houses and industrial plants were first on the list and for the past three days have been visited and inspected. Store and plant managers were given posters and pamphlets to be put on display starting today.

Fire Chief J. J. Benner said yesterday that the 1952 theme for prevention week is: "Save lives—stop fires."

House to house visits by firemen, riding radio-equipped engines is next on the schedule. Chief Benner said, Home owners will be asked to look for hazards and will be given safety check-sheets which will aid them in correcting the danger spots, the Chief advised.

Two main causes. Special emphasis will be placed on the checking of heating appliances and electrical devices—two main causes of home fires, according to records.

Carelessly placed cigarettes and matches also are responsible for many blazes, it was stated.

In county areas, fire crews also will tour residential areas handing out literature in practical prevention tips, according to Chief Cecil R. Gehr, of the County Fire Department.

## Elks to Honor Newspaper Week Tuesday Evening

National Newspaper Week, Oct. 1-8, will be observed by the Redondo Beach B. P. O. E. Elks Lodge No. 1378 on Oct. 7, pursuant to a request from Sam Stern, Fargo, N. D., Grand Exalted Ruler.

In a message to Judge Otto B. Willett, Esquire of the Redondo Beach Lodge and chairman of the committee in charge of the observance, Stern called the constitutional guarantee of freedom of the press "one of our most precious birthrights as Americans" and informed him that 1615 Elks lodges over the country would participate in the celebration.

Judge Willett announced that the Lodges' program would be built around the National Newspaper Week slogan, "Your Right to Know . . . a Constitutional Guarantee." The speaker for the occasion will be Superior Court Judge David Coleman, presently sitting in the Inglewood branch of the court.

"Grand Exalted Ruler Stern's message pointed out that while we do have a right to know, we must fight constantly to preserve our rights," Judge Willett said.

"More and more frequently efforts are being made to curtail the press' freedom to search out the truth and report it to the people. Such efforts are direct attacks upon our right to know by people who don't want us to know."

"As Elks, we appreciate the fact that the Constitution guarantees a free press not as a privilege for the newspapers but as a protection for our liberties."



**DRUG PEDDLERS NABBED . . .** From the window of an old milk wagon narcotics officers watched as a Torrance high school age boy made contact with his 18-year-old Los Angeles "pusher" at Hawthorne Ave. and Del Amo Blvd. late Wednesday. Police pinched four youths and cut the main artery of drug supply into Torrance, they say.

## Torrance Youth Nabbed with Dope

A smouldering war against teenage narcotic traffic flamed into the open in Torrance Wednesday evening as agents picked up four young dope peddlers—one a high school age Torrance boy.

Arrests were made after police hid out in an abandoned milk wagon to watch the Torrance youth meet his contact man—an 18-year-old Los Angeles drug addict.

They met at Hawthorne Ave. and Del Amo Blvd. Police Chief John Stroh revealed that his department worked with state and county narcotics agents for two weeks before they were able to move in.

The pinch was made by Torrance Detective Sgt. D. C. Cook, Inspector Hayden Dowdy, State

Narcotics Bureau agent, and D. A. Cook, of the Sheriff's office. One of the youths nabbed Wednesday is known to be the main supplier of marijuana and benzodrine pills for the entire Torrance area, authorities claim.

A half-tin of grass—enough marijuana to make 24 cigarettes valued at \$1 each, and 100 benzodrine tablets worth about \$6, were unloaded to the Torrance "pusher" at Wednesday's meet, Sgt. Cook said.

Two or three such meets have been taking place each week. At least 35 Torrance boys and girls were "in" on the drug traffic here, Cook revealed.

Reveals Good Tip A hot tip from the mother of a 17-year-old girl ten days ago gave police their first good lead in four months of shaking narcotic activities here.

Cook said the girl had been high on benzodrine for three days and her jag was just beginning to wear off when he talked with her.

"She was sick, real sick," he said. "These kids don't realize how powerful drugs can be. She had taken nearly 30 benzodrine tablets and was just coming out of it when I talked with her."

"She told me she wished she were dead."

Mother of the young drug victim went to police when she notified her daughter had been acting strangely for several days. She became so sick after the week-end that she was unable to go to school, the mother reported.

Gather Data From information obtained, other high school age boys and girls were contacted and more data compiled.

"The meet Wednesday evening was made on more or less of a hunch," Cook said, "and it paid off."

Penalty for violation of the anti-narcotics laws carries a sentence of from 5 to 10 years in prison.

## Marijuana Plant Uncovered Here In Tomato Patch

Marijuana plants—enough to produce two pounds of potent drugs—were discovered in a back yard at 4434 1/2 Del Amo Blvd., Friday by narcotics officers.

Torrance Det. Sgt. D. C. Cook said that the plants were some of the biggest and finest he had ever viewed, and stood more than five feet high.

Police questioned Joseph R. Rodriguez, 51, owner of a house at the location, who said he was unaware that they were marijuana plants. They were growing amidst a tomato patch. Rodriguez was not held.

Penalty for wilful growing of marijuana is a jail sentence and heavy fine.

## Smoke, Gas Kills

More people die from suffocation caused by smoke and from contact with superheated gases than are killed by the flames themselves in typical catastrophes, according to the National Board of Fire Underwriters.

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