

Miss Torrance Wins State Title



(Herald Photo)
MISS CALIFORNIA . . . Sandra Lea Constance, crowned Miss Torrance last year, has just been named Miss California in preliminaries for the Miss Universe Beauty Pageant this summer.

Enters Famous Contest

"I never dreamed it could happen to me," Miss California said. "I was the most surprised girl in the world and I think it's just wonderful. I am honored and thrilled."

Green-eyed Sandra Lea Constance, Miss Torrance for 1953, won the "Miss California" title Tuesday night and burst into tears of happiness when the announcement was made.

The 18-year-old auburn-haired photographer's model entered in the Miss Universe preliminaries after winning the Miss Hollywood title. She was chosen over 13 other contestants by the panel of seven judges, which included a casting director, a talent scout, a dermatologist, an artist and a photographer.

She now will appear in the Miss Universe Beauty Pageant in Long Beach, according to James Van Dyck, president of Torrance Area Youth Band, Inc., which sponsors the annual Miss Torrance contest.

Loaned to Gardena
The beautiful young miss was loaned to Gardena Valley as its queen in the Rose Parade and also was one of the finalists in the Miss 102 contest.

She cried profusely as President Bill Best presented her with the crown of pearls topped by an eight-ball, symbol of the sponsoring Greater Los Angeles Press Club.

Vital statistics of the new Miss California are, bust 36 inches, waist 23 inches and hips 36 inches. She stands 5 feet 5 inches tall and weighs 114 pounds. Judging was on the basis of beauty of face and figure, poise, grooming, presentation, personality and voice.

Sandra, who aspires to be an actress, lives at 17202 Glenburn Ave. and is a graduate of Torrance High School. Born in Gary, Ind., she has lived in California for the past eight years.

She will be on hand here July 30 to help crown her successor, Van Dyck said yesterday.

Harbor Freeway Hits Half Mark

By MARV HALL

The Harbor Freeway—vital cross-county artery that gives Harbor and South Bay residents a straight shot all the way into Pasadena—has reached the halfway point from the standpoint of design, right-of-way acquisition and construction, it was reported this week by W. L. Fahey, district engineer. It is hoped that the State Highway Commission will set up sufficient funds during the next five-year period so that the Freeway can be completed throughout, from the harbor to the hills.

Where It Passes
The link will pass Torrance between Vermont Ave. and Figueroa St. It will eventually meet the Sepulveda Freeway near 190th St. and Figueroa St., where a special traffic interchange facility is now in process of design.

From this intersection with the Sepulveda Freeway, the route south has been carefully worked out to avoid interference with oil wells and oil refinery operations.

Heading toward the harbor, the freeway follows a line approximately equidistant from Figueroa St. and Vermont Ave.

It passes over East Rd., under Carson St., under 23rd St. and Ocean Ave., and over Sepulveda Blvd. Both 220th and 213th Sts. are to dead-end on either side of the freeway, a preliminary map of the route indicates.

The freeway ends at Battery and Gaffey Sts. in San Pedro. Approaching the harbor area, the freeway location skirts to the east by the Union Oil Refinery.

A total of 2.2 miles of the (Continued on Page 23)



NEW PREXY . . . Bob Owens will be installed president of the Torrance Civitan Club tonight at 7 o'clock at the Hollywood Riviera Club at an installation dinner. Bob Belken and Mayor Nick Drate are the new first and second vice presidents, respectively.

TORRANCE HERALD

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Council Adopts Record Budget, Orders Survey of City Wages

Budget Up \$250,000 For Year

It took four City Councilmen about five minutes to put their stamp of approval of a budget calling for expenditures exceeding one and one-half million dollars here Tuesday evening as they squeezed the July 1 deadline with the budget estimate. Total is set at \$1,570,460.

And the whole budget, which represents an increase of nearly \$250,000 over last year's record budget, is being handled without a general tax increase, according to the figures drawn up by City Manager George Stevens.

Biggest chunk of the money will go to the police department, which has \$200,666 earmarked for it in the new budget. The fire department will get \$268,145, and the street department \$192,404.

Balanced Budget
In his report to the Councilmen Tuesday, Stevens emphasized again that the figures proposed were for a balanced budget—that all expenditures were covered for under the income anticipated during the year.

"Based on estimated valuations for the coming year, and on estimates from other revenues, it is believed that the proposed budget can be supported without any increase in the General Fund tax rate," Stevens told the Councilmen.

Major item in the budget will be for salaries, Stevens reported. He said approximately 75 percent of the operating expenses of the city will go out through payrolls.

Salaries of city employees will be adjusted following an impartial survey. The Council authorized the city manager to proceed with the survey immediately. Stevens said it would take about 45 days for the firm to complete the survey and make a report to the city. Pay adjustment funds are earmarked in the budget and any raises will be made retroactive to today, the Council ordered.

Salary Needs
"To attract better applicants and to retain our trained personnel, the city should pay salaries which compare favorably with comparable cities in our area," Stevens said in his report. (Continued on Page 27)

Navy Hitchhiker Beaten, Drugged

Torrance police are searching for a man in late model car who allegedly assaulted, drugged and robbed a sailor here early Wednesday morning.

The sailor, Charles Ross Budlong, 19, who is stationed on the USS Henry S. Tucker operating out of San Francisco, claimed that he was picked up in Long Beach by the man. When they arrived in Torrance, the sailor said, he was attacked and beaten up, and his billfold taken, although there was no money in it.

Lee Zivver, 2279 W. 230th St., called police about 2:30 a.m. Wednesday and reported that he had found Budlong in a battered condition.

Budlong was taken to Harbor General Hospital and then to the Naval Dispensary. He was apparently released to his ship, Detective Capt. Ernie Ashton said.

Certain details of the case are still hazy, he said, and police are still checking. There are indications that drugs may be involved.

Thieves Cop Cement
Thieves stole 20 sacks of cement, locally in short supply, from two local building concerns this week.

L. G. Newman, 22621 Marjorie St., contractor for Pacific Patios, reported the theft of 12 sacks of cement from Allied Gardens, 22303 Katherine Ave., where the company was working. Joe Terlizzi, of the Reliance Fence Co., reported eight bags taken from a nearby job at Anza Ave. and Sepulveda Gardens.

Petitions For Bond Vote Filed
Petitions requesting a bond election for a new Civic Center and municipal swimming pool were filed with the City Clerk late Wednesday. About 2000 names were on the petitions.

The petitions were filed by Mrs. Norma Tillim, who led the drive to obtain signatures. They will be read to the council at its next meeting on July 6.

A new bond election is requested by the petitions. The proposals, which backers hope would be voted upon in September or October, involve \$700,000 for a new Civic Center on Torrance Blvd., between Madonna and Maple Avenues, and a new municipal swimming pool on the same plot of ground.

In the April 13 election, these proposals failed to receive the necessary two-thirds majority by only a few votes.

Mrs. Tillim indicated that if the council approves a new election, an intensive campaign for passage will be waged, including a mass meeting and intensive canvassing of areas which voted against the proposals in the last election.

WEATHER

Low clouds and local drizzles are predicted for this morning by the Weather Bureau, but the day should become mostly sunny this afternoon and slightly cooler, with a high near 78 degrees. Long range forecast for the Fourth of July week-end shows that there is no rain in sight for the holiday.

Pacific Coast Highway Speeds May Be Lowered

A speed zone study that will possibly result in the lowering of speed limits along Breakneck Boulevard—Pacific Coast Highway—has been submitted to Sacramento to the Traffic Department of the State Division of Highways.

The survey was the result of numerous complaints of residents living near the heavily traveled roadway. The entire portion of the road lying within Torrance has been surveyed with the purpose of determining whether speed limits should be reduced, and results were positive, Alfred Goldin, assistant district traffic engineer, stated.

May Install Signal
At the same time, an investigation has been scheduled to determine whether a traffic signal should be installed at the intersection of Pacific Coast Hwy. and Crenshaw Blvd.

A physical count of cars using the intersection will be made and, if the proportion of cars crossing the Highway on Crenshaw Blvd. is high enough (a signal will be installed, Goldin reported.

Pedestrians Counted
The number of people who cross the Highway at Crenshaw also is considered. A traffic signal at the location would be cordially welcomed by parents of Little League baseball players, many of whom must cross Pacific Coast Hwy. to reach the Little League field on Crenshaw near the Highway.

City Plans Tax Probe
Torrance merchants got a warning Tuesday night that city officials may crack down on collection of the city's half cent sales tax.

At the City Council meeting, Councilman Albert Isen urged a new "get tough" policy with merchants. He suggested a check with the State Board of Equalization, which makes audits of tax figures, to see if the city is getting its just share from local businessmen.

An alternate proposal had been suggested—raising the city's sales tax from one-half to one cent.

THE HERALD TO PRINT MORE COMMUNITY NEWS
Three new neighborhood columnists have joined the Torrance Herald staff and a fourth has returned to writing following her recuperation from a serious motor vehicle accident earlier this year. Their columns will be published each Sunday in the Herald.

Beginning last Sunday were the columns of Mrs. Vera C. Wright, at FR 2-2288, who will report for the west section of North Torrance; and Agnes Moseley, at FR 5-4304, who is reporting for the Sepulveda Gardens, and Victoria Terrace residents.

Scheduled to begin next Sunday is a column from the Ellinwood district prepared by Sandra and Joe Tomchak, at FR 5-6662.

Mrs. Viola Klug, FR 5-9228, who wrote from the Allied Gardens and Seaside Ranchos area, will resume her column this week.

If you have news of your area, call your columnist today.



(Herald Photo)
CRITICAL INJURIES . . . Ray Light, 29, of 2803 Martha St., is being treated by two ambulance attendants after a collision with another auto at the intersection of Western Ave. and Sepulveda Blvd. Monday morning. Light, who received critical head injuries, had just returned from his vacation the day before.

Grid Coach Has Hands Full Now

Torrance High's football coach, Cliff Graybehl, had 33 squirming, wrestling boys from 7½ to 12 on his hands this week, as the first of three periods of the YMCA summer day camps began. Graybehl is director.

Baseball, football, ping pong, chess, and various other sports occupied the time of the boys. Other activities included craft work, led by Miss Valerie Daniels, El Camino College student.

The boys, all clad in YMCA T-shirts, visited the Ford Assembly Plant in Long Beach Tuesday, and curiously eyed the proceedings of workmen.

Plenty of swimming was available for the boys as they made trips to the San Pedro YMCA pool, and to Cabrillo and Muscle Beaches for ocean swimming and lessons in water safety.

Cowboy Movies
There were also routin', tootin' cowboy movies for entertainment of the small fry.

Designed to furnish activity for younger boys during the summer, from June 23 to July 16, and July 19 to Aug. 6, the first two periods, will last three weeks. The third period will run from Aug. 9 to 20.

During the last week of the three-week period, the boys will take an overnight trip to Camp Archie Fields, where they will have a chance to briefly enjoy the outdoor life.

Next week the boys will get a chance to view an airliner at close range when they visit the Los Angeles International Airport.

Plan Excursion
Later in the period, the boys will take a ride on the harbor (Continued on Page 28)

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(Herald Photo)
FIRST SALE . . . Jaycette candidate Earsle Sims sells the first Community Fair Queen Candidate ticket to Mayor Nicholas O. Drate at the kickoff meeting held at the Chamber of Commerce Monday evening. Other queens here (left to right) include Jacqueline Pague, Elizabeth Ann Webb, Theresa Reddington, Carol Winther, Ella Mae McLeod, Lois Jones, and Pat Galad.