

Investigation Ordered on Fire Department Promotions

BOARD RATIFIES TORRANCE COURT

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Sisters Attacked After Theater Date; Pair Held

Assailants Face Court on Charge

Court hearings are pending for Sylvester Ruiz, 23, and a 17-year-old boy, both of Los Angeles, who admitted to police here this week that they attacked two Torrance sisters last Friday night.

The two sisters, one 15, the other 13, were raped and terrorized late Friday by the two after all four met for a date earlier in the evening at a local theater.

Juvenile authorities reported that the girls drove with Ruiz and the other boy to 303rd St. and Arlington Ave., after they left the show. The victims told authorities that a fight was going on at the intersection. At this point the 17-year-old boy and the younger sister left the car to watch the fight.

The 15-year-old girl said Ruiz attempted to rape her then, but that her sister and the other boy returned. Ruiz and the older girl then got into a car with several other boys and he told police that the boys held her while he attacked her.

The girls' mother had heard via telephone about the attack and came upon the scene, according to reports. The boys fled and the older girl went with her mother to summon police.

Meanwhile the younger girl, who had heard someone say the police were on their way, became frightened that she might be caught for violation of curfew and ran away with the younger boy, she told juvenile officers.

They went to the old Pacific Electric lot, Crenshaw Blvd. and Dominguez St., where they met Ruiz. All three scaled the fence and went to an old streetcar to hide from police, the girl said.

She said that the two then held her and took turns attacking her in the streetcar.

The boy was picked up shortly after the attacks. Ruiz was apprehended at his home Tuesday by Los Angeles police.

Sgt. D. C. Cook, head of the juvenile department here, said that Ruiz was held over for preliminary hearing Feb. 16, at his arraignment yesterday in South Bay Municipal Court.

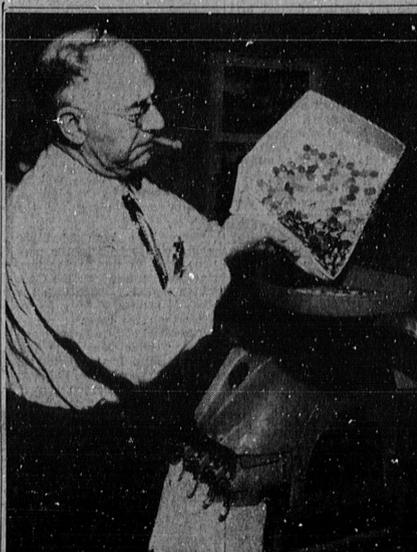
Ruiz is being held in County Jail, while the boy is being detained at juvenile hall.

Burglars Get Money, Cards From Station

A service station at Torrance and Hawthorne Blvds., was burglarized Saturday of about \$150 in cash and \$50 in credit cards, detectives reported yesterday.

Feb. 4 is Deadline For New Auto Plates

Saturday is the final day to obtain 1956 California license plates for that automobile without paying penalties, Manager Leavitt Tudor of the Torrance Department of Motor Vehicles Branch reminded yesterday.



POLIO DINES POUR IN... Police Chief Willard H. Haslam pours some of the nearly \$8500 turned in to Torrance by mothers who were on the march throughout the community Tuesday evening.

Firemen Flay Past Policies

An investigation into promotion policies of the Torrance Fire Department was ordered by the City Council this week after spokesmen for firemen protested a promotion which by-passed the No. 1 candidate on the eligible list for the fifth time.

Council confirmation of a promotion to explain ratings for Engineers John V. Agapito and Donald M. Minor was withheld pending a report by City Manager Stevens which is to include a statement from Fire Chief J. J. Benner.

Tullio Rizzo, representing the International Association of Fire Fighters, reviewed the eligible list which was headed by Engineer B. C. Slonecker. Five men had been promoted off the list since March 1, 1954, without a statement as to why Slonecker was being passed.

Ratings Satisfactory

In the meantime, Rizzo reported, satisfactory efficiency reports have been filed for Slonecker by the department.

In another case, Engineer M. T. Langum has been passed over seven times although among the top three qualified for promotion on the Civil Service eligibility list.

In one case the list was declared dead while Langum was still eligible for appointment, Rizzo said. After the list was declared dead, a temporary appointment was made of a man who had failed the former examination.

California Bank Moving Monday

The Torrance office of California Bank opens for business next Monday morning, Feb. 6, in its modern new building at 1403 Sartori Ave., across Mar-



JIM THOMPSON... Seeks Council Post

Jim Thompson Seeks Election To City Council

J. E. (Jim) Thompson, former Torrance policeman, has announced his candidacy for City Councilman.

Thompson, now employed as a surveyor's assistant for Engineering Service Corp., has lived in Torrance since 1948. In 1949 he joined the Torrance Police Dept. where, for five years, he specialized in accident investigation and prevention.

He is a past president of the Torrance Police Officers Assn. and was one of the founders of the Coordinating Council of City Employees. He also served as chairman and spokesman for this group.

Car Club

He helped to organize the Torrance Police Car Club Assn., and was the first president of the Fraternal Order of Police in the state of California.

An Air Force officer during World War II, Thompson, 31, is married and has two children. He was graduated from public schools in Fort Worth, Tex., and won a scholarship to Texas Christian University at 16 years of age. He is a member of the BPOE and the Torrance Junior Chamber of Commerce.

Petitions also have been filed by Councilman Dale and Walter G. Ryan, a machinist. Other nominating petitions have been taken out by Frank Frohnhofer, 1116 Hickory Ave., and a Norma Ritter, 1505 Florwood Ave.

Building Over \$7 1/2 Million

Total valuation of building permits issued in Torrance during January was \$7,600,226, an increase of more than \$3 million over the January, 1955, valuation which was \$4,314,975.

Chace Proposal Nearly Beaten

Torrance will get its Municipal Court despite the vigorous protests of Paul Sheedy, counsel for the Property Owners Assn., as a result of Tuesday's action by the County Board of Supervisors.

Ratification of an amendment to the County Ordinance, introduced several weeks ago by Supervisor Burton W. Chace, was voted by the Supervisors after Sheedy had argued that if Torrance got its court, other bay area communities also would demand similar facilities. He didn't specify what bay area communities now were without court facilities.

Chace defended his position on establishment of court facilities here stating that Torrance was growing rapidly and had offered to donate the land for the court building.

After agreeing that Torrance might have a legitimate claim for court facilities, Sheedy contended that the proposal should have been referred to the Judicial Council, headed by State Supreme Court Justice Phil S. Gibson, for approval.

On his recommendation that future requests be referred to the Council, the Supervisors adopted that as a matter of board policy.

Supervisors Chace, Hahn, and Jessup voted for the Torrance court, with Supervisor Ford dissenting. Supervisor Legg, currently on trial for perjury, was not at the meeting.

The ordinance becomes effective in 30 days.

Red Cross Aid Offered for Flooded Homes

Red Cross this week moved from the emergency housing and feeding stage into the problem of rehabilitation for families whose homes and furnishings were affected in last week's unprecedented storm.

No estimate as to the amount of damage which will require Red Cross help was yet available, but in a special statement, Dr. Don Moshos, chairman of the Torrance branch, pointed out that families who have suffered losses beyond immediate financial means of replacement should contact the Los Angeles Red Cross Chapter, 1200 So. Vermont St., at DuPont 4-5261.

"Red Cross will provide funds for the repairing of flood damaged homes and the furnishing of rugs, blankets and other items necessary to get back to normal living. This assistance is an outright gift," explained Dr. Moshos. "A matter of neighbor helping neighbor through the channels made possible by contributors to the annual Red Cross fund campaign."

Heart Fund Drive Opens; No Goal Set for Torrance

More than 10,000,000 Americans suffer some form of heart disease and nearly 800,000 die each year, Dr. J. H. Hull, Torrance area chairman of the 1956 Heart Fund Drive which began yesterday, announced today. "In Los Angeles County, heart and blood vessel diseases caused nearly 64 per cent of the deaths due to all causes last year, including cancer, accidents, pneumonia and diabetes," Hull said.

The Los Angeles County Heart Assn. this year will seek a minimum of \$750,000 to finance the local fight against diseases of the heart and blood vessels, according to Hull.

Dr. Hull said no specific goal has been established for Torrance.

"The need for funds to finance research and other program activities, aimed at reducing the toll of heart and blood vessel diseases, is so great that an established goal for any community is likely to be misleading," Hull said.

"The mythical average citizen gave only eight cents to the fight against heart diseases last year while giving as much as 30 cents to crusades against other crippling diseases which cause only a fraction of the death and disability."

False Report Charge Sought Against Man

A false report complaint is pending against a South Gate man, who told detectives this week that his story of being kidnapped from a street here last Friday and then beaten and robbed, was just a big tale.

Authorities say that Lloyd Allen Merry, 42, of South Gate, who works at a local shoe store, admitted he made the false report. He said the story was made up primarily for his wife, because, he said, he was afraid that she might be concerned when he arrived home late from work that day.

He told authorities that on Friday he was stopped at 190th St. and Crenshaw Blvd. by two men, who wielded knives. He said the pair got in his car and drove him to the Norwalk area where they beat and robbed him.

Detectives said Gardena police even questioned a man on the charge.

YMCA Fund Drive To Start Soon

The YMCA annual campaign for funds for 1956 will be launched Feb. 8, 6:30 p.m., with a Citizens and Workers Dinner at the YWCA, according to Ralph Morris, chairman of the Torrance YMCA board of directors.

Goal for the drive is \$17,000 to be solicited by more than 100 workers. Sam Levy, general chairman stated that "trained, experienced YMCA leadership is necessary," and added that "increased population has imposed upon this community a need for the type of youth training inherent in the YMCA program."

Speaker at the inaugural dinner will be Charles W. Jackson, associate general secretary of the metropolitan YMCA of Los Angeles.

The final report meeting for the campaign will be the victory dinner to be held Feb. 29, 6:30 p.m., at the YWCA.

diet is maintained. The Heart association also certifies foods and beverages as to low sodium (low salt) content.

An information and referral service also is maintained for free use by the public to help patients get proper advice through referral to physicians, hospitals or clinics in their area and within their economic means.

A public education program, offering the free services of a speakers bureau of leading heart specialists, films and literature, is available throughout the year.

A professional education program, including regular symposiums on heart disease, circulation or public health, and the latest concepts of cardiovascular diagnosis and treatment, and the facilitation of post-graduate courses for physicians, is maintained the year around.

These, and many other program activities, and the possibility by the February campaign as well as through funds received the year around from memorial gifts, will and bequests.

"Thousands of volunteers will be needed throughout the County to assist in making the Heart Fund Campaign a success," Hull said.

Volunteers are asked to call DAvenport 9-3328 to offer their services.