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(Herald Photo)

IN BEAUTY FINALS . . . Lynne Lehr, 21, of Torrance, receives third place trophy from Jayne Mansfield at the end of judging Monday night in the annual Miss California Press Photographer contest at the Beverly Hilton Hotel. Diminutive Toby Hill, 21-year-old actress, won the contest.

Kin of Victim Held for Plot

A 16-year-old boy is being held at Lennox Sheriff's Station today on charges of attempted extortion against his step-aunt, whom "I don't like," according to Sheriff Eugene Biscailuz and John Malone, FBI agent-in-charge.

Mrs. Elin Vanderlip, Portuguese Bend, Tuesday received a printed note through the mail, threatening to kill one or more of her children if she failed to leave \$1000 in

her driveway. She immediately called the sheriff's office, and the FBI was also called in.

Note Found

Investigating officers discovered that the boy, a step-nephew of Mrs. Vanderlip's had been sleeping in a guest house at the rear of the property with her permission. In a waste basket, the officers found a torn-up envelope with printing on it. Handwriting expert John Harris identified the printing as the same as that on the extortion note.

Faced with the evidence, the boy admitted writing the note, officers reported. They quoted him as saying that he didn't want to hurt anyone, but to cause trouble for his aunt because he didn't like her.

Death Threat

The note said, "I am going to kill one of your kids if I do not receive \$1000 by March 20. Call police and I will kill him or her anyway. Leave it by the inside of the left-hand side of the Vanderlip drive gate. This is no joke."

Officers said a petition would be filed on the boy's behalf in Juvenile Court. He lived with his mother and step-father in Rolling Hills, but had been staying at the Vanderlip home.

Well-Done Pot Roast Rescued By Firefighters

Rescuing a pot roast left in the oven too long and putting out a fire at the Sparks home highlighted the activities of Torrance firemen this week.

Neighbors reported that smoke was pouring from the Joe Bartolome home, 18313 Amie Ave., but on arrival firefighters reported that the only casualty was an excellent pot roast. There was no damage except smoke.

Sparks from a cigaret apparently caused a sofa fire at the J. V. Sparks home, 18045 Western Ave., Sunday, but only the sofa was damaged.

Firemen also stood by in the 21000 block on Henrietta St. Monday as the failure of a cleaning valve in an oil tank sent hot oil gushing down the sides of the tank. There was no fire.

TEAC Members Get Lesson In Science From Students

Members of the Torrance Educational Advisory Committee learned how their children are assigned to classrooms and got a lesson in science from children of Mrs. Clara Guetzkow's Wood School class at the Tuesday meeting of the group at the YWCA.

Principals Joe T. Brandon, Fern Greenwood, and Dale M. Harter, North High School, described the method educators use to assign pupils to classes at elementary and high school levels.

Balanced Classes

A well-balanced kindergarten classroom is the aim of the schools when children are first assigned, Brandon told the group. Best results are attained when classes are divided about evenly between boys and girls, when various neighborhoods are represented in one room, and when children with special problems, such as speech difficulties, are divid-

ed among several rooms.

In determining whether children will be assigned to morning or afternoon sessions, administrators take into account parents' work, health factors, and bus-riding problems, as well as special factors, he said. After that, selections are at random.

Placement Studied

"We meet the children in the spring and as a result, try to place the children where they will do best," Brandon declared.

In higher grades, children are sometimes switched around, so that they are working with some old friends and with new children. Children's development is aided by this, Brandon said.

When new children come into school, parents are interviewed so that the child may be placed in as congenial an environment as possible, he declared.

Something of the same pro-

Lomita Starts Fourth Attempt

Backers of efforts to incorporate the Lomita area into a city started on the fourth round this week after petitions filed with the board of supervisors earlier were declared insufficient by the County Clerk's office.

A count of incorporation certificates revealed only 22.06 per cent of the Lomita property owners had signed the petition, according to Gordon Nesvig of the clerk's office. Twenty-five per cent was required.

New Petition Filed

Proponents filed another petition for incorporation Tuesday, the day the board of supervisors declared the previous petition invalid.

County Counsel Harold Kennedy has instructed the county offices to treat the Torrance annexation petition as "being of no consequence," according to Jim Mize, Nesvig's assistant. Mize explained that the county's legal advisor recommended this stand to keep the county from making a decision on a question of law which is obscure.

Torrance on Schedule

City Attorney Stanley Remelmyer said yesterday that he was aware of the county's stand, but that the city would proceed with its annexation proceedings on schedule. Petitions will be circulated in Lomita beginning next week. They will call for an annexation election.

The matter of which action now has priority may not be settled short of a court decision, both the county and city officials agreed. The state code governing incorporations and annexations is not specific on matters such as the Lomita case where both procedures are being tried at the same time.

POLICE NAB YOUNG PAIR ON BURGLARY

Two young burglars were nabbed by police Wednesday after they looted the trailer home of Ted Jackson at 21739 Western Ave.

Officers said that the pair, aged 13 and 15 years old, pried open a door of Jackson's trailer and took seven coin collection books.

New Signatures For Parking Lot District Needed

Efforts to form an off-street parking assessment district in Torrance will have to be started over again, City Attorney Stanley Remelmyer informed the City Council this week.

Changes in the district which included the exclusion of some lots previously listed and the addition of others will necessitate the new start, Remelmyer said he was told by the legal firm of O'Melvary and Meyers, Los Angeles, experts on municipal bond measures.

Petitions signed by sufficient holders of property in the district—roughly the downtown Torrance area—had been obtained last year.

A speed up of the resigning was foreseen, however, this time when the Council authorized employment of a special agent to obtain the signatures. He will be paid from parking meter revenue.

In another phase of the parking plan for downtown Torrance, the Council Tuesday night approved a job description for female parking meter attendants based on the Ingelwood plan.

The Council agreed on everything except what to call them. Suggestions ranged from "Meter Maids" to "Parking Hostesses."

212th Street Storm Drain Bids Called for April 12

Bids to construct Unit 2 of the 212th St. storm drain in Los Angeles City and County territories will be opened in the office of H. E. Hedger, chief engineer of the Los Angeles County Flood Control District, on Friday, April 12, Supervisor Burton W. Chace said yesterday.

The call for bids on the \$392,503 project was authorized by the Board of Supervisors following approval of plans and specifications submitted by the Flood Control District. Formal award of the contract is expected soon after the April 12 bid opening and 210 days have been allocated for its actual construction, Chace said.

Connects With Drain

Plans call for the drain to tie in with the completed section of Unit 1 of this project and to run southeast in 212th St. through the intersection of Denker Ave. and 212th. It continues southeast within a right of way to the west side of Normandie Ave., runs east across a Pacific Electric Railway right



(Herald Photo)

"IT'S ALL YOURS NOW" . . . Lee Schlens (seated) receives a sign saying "Superintendent of Building" from John V. Russell, who is retiring after three years in the position. Schlens held a similar job at Compton and started work Monday. Russell, who took the job three years ago "temporarily" will remain until July 1 to help out.

New Building Chief Arrives

A new superintendent of building for the city of Torrance took over this week from John V. Russell, who was named on a "temporary basis" three years ago.

Lee Schlens, who has been chief building inspector at Compton for the past three years, officially became superintendent of building. Russell will continue to assist Schlens until his contract with the city expires on July 1. The building superintendent checks plans for all building in the city.

"The city is lucky to get a man of this caliber," Russell declared.

County Employees

The two men formerly were employed by the County Engineering Dept., where Russell was superintendent of special inspectors and director of training, while Schlens was an assistant district engineer.

Russell, 74, has retired twice, but was first called out of retirement to reorganize the San Fernando Building Dept. and later reorganize the Torrance department. Three years ago, Russell was hired for 90 days to reorganize the local department, but remained three years because a qualified successor could not be found.

Former Contractor

The new building superintendent attended the University of West Virginia and Citrus Junior College, and graduated from the University of Southern California. He was in the contracting business before going to work for the county, where he worked for 14 years.

Married and the father of two married children, he now (Continued on Page Three)

Broadway-Sears Center Planned

A major shopping center which will be the site for a new Broadway Department Store and a Sears, Roebuck and Co. store will be constructed soon in central Torrance, the HERALD learned yesterday. Construction on a 70-acre shopping center at Hawthorne Ave. and Sepulveda Blvd. will be started soon, a spokesman for Broadway confirmed.

The center will be bounded on the west by Hawthorne, south by Sepulveda, north by Carson St., and on the east by the railroad line running adjacent to Madrona Ave.

To Park 5500 Cars

Parking facilities for more than 5500 cars will be provided.

The center will be constructed with the large Broadway store on one end of a

Myron Wassom, representing Coldwell-Banker who will develop the new Del Amo Shopping Center with Broadway and Sears, will be guest speaker at the March breakfast meeting of the Chamber of Commerce next Tuesday morning, March 19, at the YWCA building. Reservations for the 7:30 a.m. meeting should be made with the Chamber of Commerce at FA 8-2814.

mall and the Sears store on the other. Between will be more than 30 specialty shops including men's and women's wear stores, children's specialty shops, variety and chain stores, a supermarket, drug stores, banks, a large restaurant, and other retail stores—all designed to make a complete one-stop shopping center.

3-Story Broadway

The Broadway store will be a three-story structure and contain approximately 220,000 square feet. The Sears store will be on one level, but will contain 220,000 square feet.

The new center—first major commercial development in this city of 85,000—will be located on the historic Del Amo property, which is part of an original land grant to a soldier in the Spanish Colonial Army, Juan Jose Dominguez, who was given the land known as Rancho San Pedro in 1784.

Held Large Area

The boundaries of the Rancho San Pedro as described in documents of record indicate that it comprised the area bounded on the east by the Los Angeles River, on the north by Rosecrans Ave., and on the west and south by the Pacific Ocean.

The Sepulvedas later obtained grazing permits for the Palos Verdes Hills area and secured ownership subsequently by right of possession.

Company Formed

The area which now is Torrance was held in the estate later when to Susana Dominguez, wife of Dr. Gregorio Del Amo, and the Del Amo Estate Co. was formed to manage the land.

Jared Sidney Torrance purchased 3500 acres of the land to found the city of Torrance in 1911, and the balance of the property, which is now being converted into a major shopping center has remained in the hands of descendants of the original land owner, since the days of Juan Jose Dominguez in 1784.

Tot Falls From Auto, Not Injured

Mark McAllister, 2½, escaped with minor cuts and bruises Tuesday when he fell from a moving car, according to police.

His mother, Mrs. Doris McAllister, 25, of 21301 Palos Verdes Blvd., said he apparently opened a rear door of the machine as she was driving at 190th St. and Yukon Ave.

Carol Sue Miller, 19, of 1617 W. 255th St., Harbor City, suffered a cut leg in a Monday accident at Hawthorne Ave. and 190th St. Police said her auto was involved in a collision with an auto driven by Mary Sweat, 27, of 18825 Font-hill Ave.

Mrs. Mary Williams, 42, of 2432 W. 239th St., suffered minor hurts in a two-car crash at Sepulveda Blvd. and Cabrillo Ave. Drivers were Joseph Williams, 44, of the 238th St. address, and George W. Smithers, 37, of 808 W. 229th St.

Arm and head wounds were sustained by Lorraine Handelman, 17, of 2703 Cabrillo Ave., in a Monday evening mishap at Carson St. and Cabrillo Ave. The motorists were Dorothy James, 29, of 2103 Santa Cruz Ct., and Jesse Handelman, 23, of the Cabrillo Ave. address.

Better Phone Service for Area Pledged

Improved phone service for Torrance was promised by a representative of the General Telephone Co. at the City Council meeting Tuesday night, as the city investigated reports that company officials had said that the city was to blame for slow installation service.

C. Jackson, a commercial representative for the firm, said that a new switching equipment addition to the Riviera office will help eliminate delays in installing phones to new residents and businesses in the Frontier exchange.

Councilman Robert B. Jahn had called for an explanation after being told that his request for a phone for his business might be delayed six months because "Torrance turned down the company's request to expand switching facilities in Hollywood Riviera." Jahn pointed out that the phone firm had failed to start work on the addition until six months after permission was granted.

At the suggestion of Councilman Willys Blount, Jackson agreed that he would suggest that company representatives be cautioned not to give the impression that Torrance was responsible for the phone service delays.

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