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Torrance Herald

OFFICE AND PLANT AT 1619 GRAMERCY AVE., TORRANCE

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COURT MAY BE DELAYED A YEAR



SHE'S PREPARED . . . Marilyn Tinsley holds up a handful of the Civil Defense brochures which will be given out to local residents this week as part of Civil Defense Week activities. George Powell, Civil Defense coordinator, said efforts would be made to acquaint as many people as possible with facts as to what to do in case of attack.

Civil Defense Week Observed

Facts that can save lives will be emphasized this week as part of Civil Defense week activities, according to George Powell, head of the local Civil Defense organization.

Powell and Capt. Douglas Horlander have been giving a series of talks before PTA's and clubs, telling the needs of the area if enemy attack should come. At the same time, they are handing out brochures, "Survival is Possible,

but—." These are also available for interested persons.

Some of these potential life saving facts are:

In case of enemy attack, a three to five minute steady blast of the defense would warn local residents, who would then be asked to tune to either of the Conrad stations—640 and 1240 kilocycles—for further instructions. They should also take cover immediately.

Residents are urged to keep a seven-day supply of food at home, as well as a first aid kit, a supply of drinking water, and an extra supply of gas for the car.

If there is no advance warning of attack, there may be an atomic attack with its brilliant flash. Persons who see the flash have time to protect themselves by ducking immediately under furniture, on the floor, or in some sheltered spot.

Afterwards, residents should stay inside to avoid dangerous radiation which cannot be detected except by geiger counters.

Broom Aids Clean Sweep of Purses

A broom does more than sweep the floor as two employees of the Palms cafe will testify.

In two recent cases, women have reported a broom handle was put through the office window to snag purses.

Mary F. Gilbert of San Pedro, the latest victim, reported \$45 taken from her purse in this manner.

New Area Judge To Be Sworn In

Torrance Attorney Donald Armstrong will be sworn in as the third municipal judge of the South Bay Court District in ceremonies at the Torrance city hall at noon tomorrow. Former Federal District Judge Paul McCormick, before whom Armstrong tried his first case, will officiate at the formal ceremonies.

Crash Kills Girl, 20, on Wedding Day

A 20-year-old El Camino coded who was scheduled to be married to a Torrance man last Sunday met death instead in a two-car collision near Taft.

Connie Beck, Inglewood, was returning from Bakersfield with "something borrowed" for her wedding to Joel McNeal, 22, Torrance, when her car was involved in a head-on collision with another car. Her roommate, Patsy Lou Begelew, who was with her, is in Westside Hospital in Taft with serious injuries. Also hospitalized are five members of a Pasadena family who were riding in the other car.

McNeal, an inspector at North American Aircraft Co., didn't learn of his fiancée's death until he went to pick her up for the wedding Sunday night, and was given the news by her landlady.

The coed was buried Thursday in her hometown, Randolph, Kans., wearing the bridal veil and wedding ring she never got to wear.

The young couple were scheduled to move into a house they had rented in Hermosa Beach. McNeal was reported staying with a friend in Manhattan Beach.

13 Accident Victims Said 'Improving'

Thirteen persons injured in a three-car smash-up late Wednesday at Carson St. and Normandie Ave. all were reported recovering yesterday at Harbor General Hospital, as the last victim, Amida Zepeda, 9, was removed from the critical list.

Officers reported that a car driven by Robert L. Fryer, 19, 18203 Normandie Ave., collided with one driven by Edmond Zepeda, 37, 1003 E. 223rd St., and ran into an auto driven by Walter Dulaney, 30, 18725 Wall St., Gardena.

Mrs. Lavane Dulaney, 27, and her children—Debra, 1; Glen, 8; Scott, 6; Walter III, 4; and Freddie, 3—all suffered serious injuries in the mishap. The riders in the Zepeda car—Mrs. Lois Zepeda, 32; Amida Zepeda, 6; Sue Curry, 14; and Elizabeth, 12—also suffered serious injuries, with the little Zepeda girl the most seriously injured.

Prayer suffered a shoulder injury and a passenger in his car, Don Smith, 17, 1624 W. 222nd St., also was hurt.

Armstrong, a member of the California bar since 1923, will join Judges John A. Shidler and Otto B. Willett on the South Bay Court bench.

On hand to see him take the oath as a judge will be government officials and civic leaders from the Los Angeles and southwest area as well as friends and members of the Armstrong family.

Family to Attend

Mrs. Armstrong and the couple's daughter, Mrs. E. B. Hall, of Los Angeles, will be front row spectators. The Armstrongs' son, James, will not be able to attend.

The newly appointed judge was named to the position recently by Gov. Goodwin J. Knight. He was among several mentioned for the post.

Armstrong completed his legal schooling at the University of California at Berkeley, and was admitted to the bar 34 years ago. He spent the first two years in the California Corporate Commissioners' office, and then served four years as assistant U. S. Attorney in the Southern California district. He has been in private practice since 1929, the past eight years in Torrance.

His appointment to the new judgeship stands until the next general election in 1960. At that time he must seek election to the office.

Gives Up Practice

In accepting appointment to the bench, Armstrong must give up any private practice. This means he will not even be a member of the California Bar, he explained.

A senior partner in the law firm of Armstrong, Mewborn, and Hitchcock, he must give up this affiliation also. Attorney Donald Hitchcock said the firm would continue as Mewborn and Hitchcock.

Although the new jurist will be sworn in tomorrow, he will not take up his duties until adequate court facilities are provided.

Block Print Exhibit Now In Library

An exhibit of how block-prints are made is on now at the Torrance Public Library, 1345 Post Ave., and will continue for several weeks. Along with cutting tools and material used in making the prints, actual blocks from which the prints are made, are shown. The exhibit was set up by Vicki Feldon, former president of the Torrance Art Group, and is sponsored by that organization.



DONALD ARMSTRONG
... To Become "Your Honor"

Board to Study Teenage Center

Torrance needs a teenage center, the Torrance Recreation Commission declared Wednesday night and instructed Commissioner Rose Craig to continue her studies of the project.

Mrs. Craig told the group that Mayor Albert Isen had informed her he was in favor of a youth center on the Civic Center grounds which could be expanded as needs increase. A problem is created, she reported, because some of the strongest support for such a center has come from teenagers who live in the Torrance area but not in the city of Torrance.

Commissioner Milton Sippel urged the group to confer with the teenagers to see what they want. The commission requested that a teenage representative attend its meetings.

Recreation Director Harry Van Bellehem said a great variety of activities for teenagers—little theaters, golf club, swimming clubs—were needed. His department is planning a teenage golf club at Sea-Aire Park.

In answer to suggestions that other areas be contacted to find out how their youth centers operate, Van Bellehem said he would give a detailed report on the Long Beach Center at the next meeting.

Dance Okayed
In other action, the Commission voted to allow the WALTERIA Business Men's Club to use the WALTERIA Park building for teenage dances on available nights.

Commissioner Sippel urged study of the fencing problem at Sea-Aire Park in light of the new golf course there. Since the park is located next to Seaside School, he said, there may be danger to school children.

New Judge May Sit in Redondo

Hopes that the old city hall in Torrance could be used for a temporary court until construction of the new municipal court building on the civic center is completed were dimmed this week when the county administrator's office reported that it would cost \$12,000 to make the quarters suitable, and an additional \$15,000 to provide personnel.

The alternative, according to Robert B. Heuer, director of the property management division of the administrator's office, is to lease space in a Redondo Beach bank building at \$275 a month.

City officials expressed surprise yesterday when the county informed them of the costs of remodeling the old city hall for court use.

Supervisor Burton W. Chace, who had requested the county administrator to procure adequate court space in Torrance, could not be reached for comment on the matter.

In a letter to City Manager George Stevens, Heuer said considerable study had been given to the old Torrance city hall "which was so generously offered to the county by the city." Torrance offered it rent free.

Heuer said the building would need a detention tank and other facilities estimated to cost \$12,000. Supplying the extra personnel—which would be required when the new

court opened here—would cost another \$15,000, he said.

Some local officials interpreted the suggestion to keep the court branch in Redondo as a "political move" and not based on the need to serve the bulk of the area's population.

The council is scheduled to discuss the matter Tuesday.

Rivets Reports

Torrance residents can look forward to variable cloudiness today, with a chance of a few sprinkles during the day, according to the HERALD weather dog, Rivets.

"I may not always be right," he woofed, "but by golly, there's always weather."

High and low temperatures this week included Thursday (80-60); Friday (80-59); and Saturday (75-61).



COOL



CITIZEN'S PROTECTION . . . When a salesman comes to the door, the first thing a citizen should do is ask for his Torrance Solicitor's Card, shown here by Gale Whitacre. If the citizen is interested in the salesman's product, she should read the contract carefully to see that it provides the goods and the price she wants, as shown here by Barbara Massie. She also should make sure that the firm has a good record. That way, Mrs. Massie points out, she protects her pocketbook.

Fancy Pitches Can Cost Money, Maybe Even Life

By TOM RISCHIE
Herald Staff Writer
(This is the first in a series of articles entitled "Don't Be a Sucker!" In these articles, he will point out some of the ways by which local people have been gypped by unscrupulous operators or have purchased highly questionable merchandise. He will offer hints on how the average person can protect himself.)

many people sign a contract in haste. But they repent at leisure when they get around to reading the fine print in the document or figuring how much the interest is going to be. They may even decide that they didn't want or need the thing they contracted to buy.

Check Before Signing
According to Gale Whitacre, head of the City License Department, lots of people could save themselves lots of grief if they'd only read the contracts they were signing and check up on the people who are being hired to sell a product or perform a service.

Once you sign a contract, even if the price is ridiculous, there isn't a thing anybody can do for you, unless you can prove fraud or faulty workmanship. If you make a verbal contract and hand over the money, it's pretty hard to prove in court just what the

salesman did promise. In recent months, sharp salesmen have made suckers out of many Torrance residents. These are a few of the cases:

1. Three neighbors on adjoining lots went together to contract for the construction of a block wall dividing their property. They failed to check the builder's credentials. He built the wall, purchasing the bricks and materials from a local firm on credit. Then he

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