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Better Be Live Coward Than Dead Hero—Chief

"It's better to be a live coward than a dead hero."

That is Torrance Police Chief Percy Bennett's view on what a citizen should do when confronted by a gunman.

Four citizens of the Los Angeles Strip were faced with that problem last week as they were held captive in their apartment for 24 hours by two desperadoes. Mrs. Lola Garrett and her three children, Tom, 21; Ray, 18; and Mary, 15, remained calm and followed the instructions of the gunmen, escapees from the San Luis Obispo County Jail. They lost only a day's time and \$13.

Acted Correctly
In Chief Bennett's view, they did just what any citizen should have done under the same circumstances. TV heroes, in which the threatened citizen struggles with the gunman, seizes his gun, and turns him over to the police, usually have unhappy endings, the chief said.

"Many of these heroic deaths are unnecessary," the chief opined. "In most cases, the citizen has nothing to lose but money, which can be replaced. Lives can't be replaced. A live person can furnish us with a

description of the hoodlums. A dead person can't."

Act "Within Reason"
The citizen who finds himself looking down the barrel of a gun in a hold-up, burglary, or kidnaping is advised generally to do anything "within reason" and let the police do the capturing.

"The gunman has everything at stake and he's going to try to safeguard it any way he can," Bennett noted. "He's usually plenty nervous."

The average citizen can't tell whether the gunman really means business or is "chicken" about using his weapon, he pointed out. The criminal may be on dope or mentally unbalanced, although these factors may not be readily apparent.

Observe Details
What the victim can do is to get as many details about the gunman as he can—features, clothing, and habits—and listen closely to any conversation—nicknames, clues to where he's been and where he's going, or any other personal data. License numbers, even if the car is stolen, are always important, as well as the route of escape.

A man who has a gun may be hard to outwit, Bennett declared, urging that do-it-yourselfers stay home in their workshops and let the police solve crimes.

Torrance YMCA Delegates Attend Model Legislature

With the theme, "Democracy must be learned by each generation," still in their thoughts, the Torrance YMCA delegates returned from the 10th California YMCA Model Legislature held at the State Capitol, Feb. 13-15.

Along with several hundred other high school delegates, Judy Arnold, Senator; Gladys Hilton, Assemblyman; Colleen Hilton, Legislative Advocate; and Judi LeClaire, Legislative Aide took part in seeing a bill through, from introduction in committee, to debate in the Senate and Assembly, and to the final signing by the Youth Governor.

Each step in the process Much Preparation
Each step of the process called for careful preparation and presentation. Other delegates had to be encouraged to support the bills and argu-

ments against the bills had to be answered, involving dozens of personal contacts and continual "button-holing" of delegates. Because of the keen competition and sharp debating only 12 of the 58 bills submitted were signed by the Youth Governor.

The Torrance bill relating to crimes against children under 18 was tabled in the Committee on Crimes and Corrections and thus "died" in committee. The bill would have provided for a very stiff punishment of violators and was thought by some to be too harsh. However, the committee consultant from the California Youth Authority said it was an outstanding bill and should have been passed. Undismayed by their temporary setback, the delegates continued to support other worthy bills.

Rotary Club To Hear Talk On Da Vinci

The contributions of Leonardo da Vinci to the world of knowledge will be discussed this evening before members of the Torrance Rotary Club by Elmer Belt, M.D., who has made the life of the famous Italian a lifelong study.

Dr. Belt will pay particular attention to the contributions of the famous scientist, sculptor, author, and painter to the field of medicine.

He will be introduced by Dr. Eugene Cook, program chairman for the evening. The club meets at 8:30 p.m. at the Women's Club.

Along with all of the hard work the delegates enjoyed a recreation program, the highlight of which was the Governor's Ball on Friday evening.

Among the principal speakers were Gov. Goodwin Knight and Robert Kirkwood, state controller. Chief Justice Warren sent his greetings and expressed his endorsement for the youth and government program. He said, "I hope that you will continue the interest in your government which this fine program has stimulated because of all forms of government, a democracy is the most difficult to achieve, the most demanding to practice successfully and calls for the most understanding to preserve."

The delegates from Torrance were sponsored by the Rotary Club which contributed \$178 and a car firm who loaned a station wagon for the trip. Both groups were commended for their interest and support.

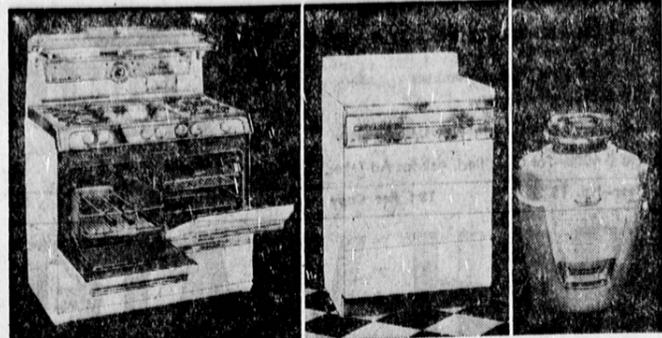


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RALPHS' BIRTHDAY PRIZES . . . Among the \$60,000 worth of prizes being given away during Ralphs Markets' 85th anniversary celebration are these three useful household items. Shown above are a gas range, and garbage disposers. A local woman, Jennie Weaver, 4230 W. 176th St., last week won a sewing machine.

Blood Drive Here Brings 260 Donors

The American National Red Cross Bloodmobile stationed at the Civic Auditorium last week again went "over the top" in the drive for blood donors with 260 pints received.

Mrs. Gordon S. Jones, blood recruitment chairman for the Torrance-Lomita Branch of Red Cross, said 290 people registered for the drive.

Chandler Sand and Gravel Co. brought in 25 donors and 19 donors came in from the BMW Manufacturing Co., which now has established its group account. Other groups are Elks Lodge 1948, National Assn. of Letter Carriers, Longren Aircraft Co., Ingelwood Farms, Paul's Chevrolet, and Felker Manufacturing Co. Some 25 other groups also attended.

Assisting the Torrance volunteers also were boys from Explorer Boy Scout Troop 728-X, Kenneth Smith, Pat and Mike Derouin, Don Baker, Kenneth Neal, Larry Hendrickson, and Dennis Albright. Assisting Mrs. Jones were Co-Chairman Mrs. R. L. Orsini and Mmes. John Muhleck, and D. Robinson.

Many Prizes Offered by Ralphs in Big Celebration

The more than \$60,000 worth of prizes celebrating Ralphs 85th birthday anniversary includes four O'Keefe and Merritt Gas Ranges, two Waste King Dishwashers and two Waste King "Super Hush" Disposers.

And all of these are the finest of their kind. The O'Keefe and Merritt Ranges have many exclusive features: Hi-Vue oven that acts as a periscope to show what's baking, triple rotisserie, star-jet burners with thermatic heat control, one-piece lift top.

Dirty Dishes Disappear
Waste King Dishwasher disposes of dirty dishes faster and more hygienically and has the added feature of humidity-free drying, while the Waste King Disposer offers advanced

Local Woman Wins Machine

Jennie Weaver, 4230 W. 176th St., won a Necchi sewing machine last week in the second week of Ralphs Markets' 85th birthday celebration.

More than \$60,000 worth of prizes are being given away during the month-long celebration. Prizes will be drawn again tomorrow and on Friday, Feb. 28. It is not necessary to purchase anything at the store, but names may be registered at the South Bay store, located at the South Bay Shopping Center, 174th and Hawthorne Ave. Mrs. Weaver was a patron at the local store.

tages formerly found only in heavy-duty commercial disposers, such as liquifying action and the magic sound barrier for quiet action.

Ralphs array of prizes includes four Edsel cars, four mink stoles by Maurice Ball, a Sunset swimming pool, three Thomas electronic organs, four sets of Firestone nylon "500's" four round trips to Hawaii via TWA's Boeing stratocliners, and 75 Regency Televoters to install on the owner's television set, transforming it to an FM receiver.

Register at Store
Prizes are non-transferable, non-refundable. It is not necessary to buy anything to be eligible. Contestants merely register at any Ralphs Food Store.

Prize drawings are scheduled for each Friday in February, with just two remaining, that of Feb. 21 and Feb. 28. Winners are announced each week end on KDAY.

Moose Schedule Birthday Dance This Saturday

The annual Washington's birthday dinner will be presented by the Torrance lodge of the Loyal Order of Moose at the lodge hall, 1744 W. Carson St., Saturday, the birthday of the "father of our country" starting at 6 p.m., according to Fred Lydy, governor.

Arrangements for the chicken dinner are under the direction of George Clay, ways and means co-chairman. The Moose lodge dinners are open to the public.

William Griep, dance chairman, also announced that a regular lodge dinner will follow the dinner.

Governor Lydy has revealed the appointment of Joseph Piatt as general chairman of the forthcoming "giant" lodge 34th birthday party and mortgage burning ceremony to be held on Sunday, March 23.

James A. Evans, lodge secretary, was awarded a life membership in the Loyal Order of Moose at this week's meeting of the fraternal organization.

The Torrance Moose lodge presented a check this week to Mrs. Clara Conner, chairman of the local polio drive representing the proceeds of a recent "March of Dimes" dance sponsored by the lodge, according to James A. Evans, lodge secretary.

Torrance Herald

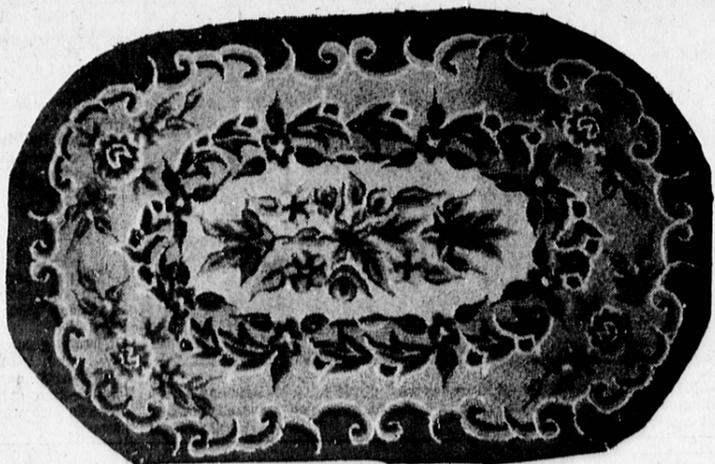
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