

Torrance Herald

OFFICE AND PLANT AT 1619 GRAMERCY AVE., TORRANCE

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44th Year—No. 18 10¢ Per Copy

TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, SUNDAY, MARCH 2, 1958

16 PAGES

ARREST COULD SOLVE 80 THEFTS

Iowa Police Nab Suspect

Nearly 80 burglaries and thefts in the Harbor area reportedly have been solved with the arrest of two Wilmington youths, according to Detective Sgt. Don Hamilton of the Torrance police department.

One of the youths, Frederick M. Smith, 19, was arrested in Cedar Rapids, Ia., on a warrant issued by the local department. Hamilton made the trip east to aid in the extradition of Smith.

The youth will have his preliminary hearing tomorrow in South Bay Municipal Court on two charges: grand theft and burglary resulting from the recent theft of nearly \$300 worth of tools from a local garage.

Gerald L. Clark, also 19 years old, was arrested nearly two months ago and is scheduled to be sentenced March 6 for his part in the alleged crimes.

Loot amounted to more than \$2000, Hamilton said, with 42 of the crimes committed in Torrance, 20 in the Firestone sheriff's area, and 10 in Los Angeles city.

Both the 19-year-olds have admitted the thefts and burglaries, according to local police.

Bank Opens Search for Top Pupils

Search is underway to find 2000 high school seniors in Southern California who have made superior records as young citizens and scholars. All will receive special citations under the 1958 Bank of America Achievement Awards program, and the top 240 will divide cash awards totaling \$31,400.

This is the Southland's share of \$54,200 in awards the bank is giving throughout the state.

Committees of teachers and principals in virtually all of the public, private and parochial high schools of Southern California are now making their selections. Awards are based on scholarship, leadership, character and promise of service to society. Winners in the first round will be announced in mid-March.

Several winners in each school will receive achievement certificates, the highest ranking also receiving gold trophies. Most gold trophy winners will again have their records judged in April for further awards in the zone or semi-final competitions against other near-by schools. First place winners in the zones will go on to the finals in May. All zone and final judging is done by civic leaders.

There will be 12 top cash awards of \$1000 each, and other awards ranging down to \$100 in the finals and to \$25 in the semi-finals.

\$8 MILLION BUILDING TOTAL HIT

February's \$1,577,696 building totals brought the figures in Torrance so far this year to \$8,601,115, according to Evelyn Coles of the Department of Public Works.

Although February's totals were about the same as last year, the year totals are far ahead of 1957's \$3,630,540.

Biggest project for the month was 50-home tract in the 20500 blocks on Amie, Eastwood, and Madison Sts., valued at \$721,679 and presented by the Yukon Investment Co.

Two 16-unit apartments at 2179-89 Sepulveda Blvd. and two 8-unit apartments at 2740 Arlington Ave. were proposed by Gil Sellan at a total cost of \$292,000.

Wayne Nelson presented plans for a six- and eight-unit apartment building at 3676 and 3774 Redondo Beach Blvd., valued at a total of \$89,655.

Six-unit apartments at 17901 Crenshaw Blvd. were planned by Ralph B. Hoard. Builder Robert Jahn took out permits for five homes in 2400 block on 233rd St., worth a \$75,000 total.

Martin and Bratrud took out a \$12,000 permit for alteration and addition of a mezzanine to a building at 18999 S. Western Ave.

Local House Entered

A burglar entered a local residence Friday and took \$4.50 from an envelope in the bedroom, according to local police.

The theft was reported by Mary Hardy, 5421 Calle Mayor.

Coin Box Stolen

Burglars removed a coin box from an automatic washing machine and dryer at a local apartment building, police reported yesterday.

The coin box contained \$55 to \$60, Seymore Wilensky, 2915 W. 168th St., told officers.

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MANAGEMENT CHANGES . . . Ed Dietrich (right), manager of Torrance Municipal Airport for the past 10 years, turns over the keys to Jack R. Egan early yesterday as the city assumed operation of the field. Egan was named manager after a civil service examination. (Herald Photo)

April 1 Opening Of Tower Sought

The city will try to have the new tower at Torrance Municipal Airport in operation by April 1.

That was the consensus of the City Council Thursday at a special meeting. Acting upon several matters pertaining to the airport, the city fathers set a "target date" April 1 for its operation.

Hours Set

Hours for operation of the tower will be between noon and 8 p.m., with indications that the hours might be adjusted to meet the changing hours of light throughout the year.

Councilman Victor Benstead questioned whether there would be enough money to run the tower operations, but it was indicated that revenues probably would be sufficient.

Councilmen sent back to the Airport Commission a proposal which would have required all aircraft operated from the Torrance Airport to have radios. Councilman Willys Blount questioned its legality.

Study Asked

It also voted to have a qualified investigator determine whether the radio equipment in the tower was equivalent to

what the city had ordered. Bob Moore of Advanced Electronics told the Council that he had been unable to obtain the equipment originally ordered, but with approval of city officials, had replaced it with instruments equally as good.

The Council also voted to purchase insurance covering operations of the airport from the lowest bidder, Aero Associates, Inc.

No date for commencing night flying was set.

Lady Held Captive By 'Best Friend'

A Torrance policeman's wife was held captive for more than an hour Thursday by a treacherous friend.

Mrs. Vincent Davey, 4813 Reese Rd., was doing the family washing when she reached down in the automatic machine to disentangle some clothes. Somehow, the spinner struck her hand and knocked it away, wedging it between the tub and the top of the machine. She managed to shut the machine off, but found herself held firm by the machine, with her hand bleeding profusely.

Scout Troop 728 Receives Youth Award

Torrance Boy Scout Troop 728 and the Candy Strippers yesterday received a George Putnam youth award for their civic activities.

The awards, designed to emphasize the activities of youngsters who succeeded

rather than those who fail" were presented on TV.

Scout Dennis Albright accepted the award for the troop's activities which included a get-out-the-vote campaign, manning a first aid station at Rancho Days, assistance in civil defense, and blood bank work.

Scoutmaster Herman Boodman and members of the troop sponsored by Fern-Greenwood PTA appeared on the program.

The Candy Strippers were singled out for their work in hospitals.

WINNING SCOUTS . . . Members of Scout Troop 728 who were awarded a George Putnam Youth Award yesterday are shown here during a recent demonstration at El Prado park. Standing is Kenneth Smith and others (left to right) are Larry Reintsma, Danny Fulton and Ken Neal. (Herald Photo)

Bond Election Back on Ballot

The off-again, on-again recreation bond issue apparently will be on the April 8 city ballot.

That was the decision of the Torrance City Council at a special meeting Thursday night. First, City Attorney Stanley Remelmeyer had indicated that the bond election could be on the April 8 city ballot, with the council and other city elections.

After consultation with O'Melveny and Meyers, bond issue consultants, he indicated Wednesday that there might not be enough time to prepare the legal groundwork for the issue. Thursday however, he told the council that the issue could go to vote on April 8. "If we don't make any mistakes."

More than 2500 signatures were obtained in a drive headed by Mrs. Eva Bisou. The measure to be placed on the April city ballot will be nearly identical with that which failed, by a narrow margin, to receive the required two-thirds majority last October.

Councilmen agreed that some sort of plan should be presented to the voters to let them know what areas would be provided for by the bond issue. They decided, however, that this plan should not be placed on the ballot, but rather embedded in a statement of policy which could be distributed by backers of the recreation issue.

It would provide for \$1,000,000 to be spent for improving present park sites and \$2,000,000 to be spent for acquiring new park sites.

Teacher Held To Answer in Theft Cases

Robert E. Prowell, former Torrance High School teacher, was held to answer on two charges of burglary when he appeared in South Bay Municipal Court Friday.

Prowell, who resides in Long Beach, is accused of being involved in the theft of a hi-fi set and four adding machines from the local high school. He is scheduled to appear in Superior Court, Long Beach, on March 14.

Municipal Judge John A. Shidler continued Prowell's bail of \$500.

The teacher, who resigned from the local school system following his arrest last week, is also out on bail on another charge of burglary involving a Long Beach real estate firm.

In Friday's preliminary hearing former Torrance High School student John Zamrzla, 2826 Cabrillo Ave., implicated Prowell in the two school thefts.

Zamrzla is out on bail as the result of three felony charges filed in Pomona.

Car Clubbers Hear Former Police Chief

The importance of youth groups and their place in the community was stressed when Car Clubs Associated met Sunday for its annual banquet.

The group of car clubs is sponsored by the Torrance police department.

Retired Police Chief Willard Haslam, gave the invocation. Another speaker was Officer H. B. Ingram, of the juvenile department.

Bob Lewellen presented the Senators and the Hot-Heads with certificates of merit for their work in the recent Torrance Area Youth Band drive.

Names drawn for contestants in the 1958 annual youth safety run to be held in June are as follows:

Drivers: Paul Grutis, Senators, and Reginald Hanneman, 40 Thieves; Co-drivers: Jim Azzaro, Greek Gods, and Darrell Nowdesha; 40 Thieves; Observers: Leo Newman, Hot-Heads, and Jim McFarland, Tyrants.

NEW BANK OF AMERICA BRANCH SET

A new Bank of America branch for west Torrance will soon be under construction.

The bank has bought a large property at the southwest corner of Sepulveda Blvd. and Hawthorne Ave. and expects to break ground for the building within the next four months, according to Ira E. Ogden, vice president of operations for the bank's Southern California division.

Ogden added that it usually takes about six months from groundbreaking to opening date.

The purchased property is directly across from the big new Del Amo Shopping Center, for which ground was recently broken. The property has a frontage of 100 feet on Sepulveda and 394 feet on Hawthorne, next to the new Jim Dandy Market.

Ogden said the building is in the planning stage and that details will be announced as quickly as they are definite.

Today's Dope Peddler Sells Murder on Installment Plan

Dope peddlers turn fantastic profits on the cravings of addicts . . . profits which would make the average businessman envious, except for one thing. Dope peddlers deal in the vilest forms of human depravity, and the end product is a broken shell with all human qualities erased. Where does the peddler go for his supplies? The sources are disclosed in today's article, the fourth of a series on narcotics in your Award Winning HERALD.

By VONDA CARLTON
Herald Staff Writer

Pusher, peddler, connection . . . the name doesn't make much difference. They're all in the same business.

They're selling murder on the installment plan . . . supplying drugs to addicts.

Illicit traffic in narcotics is a gigantic business. It amounts to more than a half billion dollars a year.

for \$300,000. Few businesses can claim a markup reaching the staggering total of 9900 per cent.

Who's Supplying It?
Who's supplying the heroin to this country?

As fantastic as it sounds, Red China is the worst offender.

It has been established beyond a doubt that the Communists are pushing exportation of heroin to servicemen and civilians of the United States.

Sworn testimony before a Senate subcommittee studying narcotics, and the internal security subcommittee, setting forth names, dates, secret codes, methods of smuggling, and drug seizures chemically analyzed prove Red China is producing and exporting opium and heroin as an established policy of its governing officials.

In addition, Turkey, Lebanon, and Mexico are primary sources of supplies. International controls are inadequate to check the illicit trade.

Greater Than Need

An estimated 25,000 pounds of heroin, which has no medicinal value, is produced in the United States.

(Continued on Page 2)

A Penny for your Thoughts

Tapping popular notions, the HERALD'S inquiring photographer asked this question:

"It has been stated that Americans are growing apathetic toward the very foundations of our republic. What, in your opinion, is freedom of the press?"

By nearly 3 to 1, persons asked this question said they did not know, had never thought about it, or declined to answer. Those who did said:

Pat Gallyer, Gardena, advertising woman: "I agree that people are apathetic. Freedom of the press is the right to print factual information—uncensored. This is one of the bulwarks of our country."

Leland Campbell, 2063 W. 220th St., U.S. Navy: "Freedom of the press is when news is brought out to the people—if there's proof it shouldn't be used to hurt people unnecessarily."

Ruth Young, 1836 San Ardo, housewife: "There's not too much freedom any more. Much has been taken from us. Many things are not printed because of pressure groups. I'm not in favor of throwing mud, but there's a happy medium."

Wayne Rankin, San Pedro, stock clerk: "Freedom of the press is saying what you want to say as long as it is the truth and without fear of being persecuted. That's what I understand about it."

Bill Couron, 1718 Martina Ave., barber: "News is printing what's right. People want to know what the facts are. Why should certain facts be kept out of the paper? If it's within the law, the public has a right to know."

Variable high cloudiness and possible showers may be in prospect today, according to the HERALD weather dog, Rivets.

The freak storm which brought rain and snow to some parts of the area Friday night missed Torrance, however.

High and low temperatures this week included Thursday (69-48); Friday (68-40); and Saturday (72-44).

Rivets Reports

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SHOWERS