

Torrance Herald

OFFICE AND PLANT AT 1619 GRAMERCY AVE., TORRANCE

44th Year—No. 19 *

10¢ Per Copy

TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, MARCH 6, 1958

40 PAGES

Ann Landers . . . 22	Obituaries . . . 7
Armed Forces . . . 15	Society . . . 9-12
Churches 30	Sports 27, 32
Crossword Puzzle 34	Star Gazer . . . 22
Editorials 22	Want Ads . . . 35-39

THREE HELD IN NARCOTICS RAID

A Penny for your Thoughts

Although Torrance, nearly alone of larger cities in the area, has no female City Council members, or even candidates, the HERALD's inquiring photographer asked this question:

"Do you believe that an all-female City Council could do as good a job as an all-male council? Why?"

Betty Ingram, 2122 Gramercy Ave., accounting machine operator:

"Definitely no. A man does not have to worry about as many home problems and is better able to give his thoughts to things that concern the city. Women are more easily swayed."

J. M. Butler, 23510 Pennsylvania Ave., retired:

"No. It might be all right to have a mixed council, but I don't think women would want an all-woman council. Men are out more and would be broader, in one sense at least."

Mrs. Betty McKee, 3239 W. 187th Pl., housewife:

"I do not think women could do the job by themselves. They are not as capable as men generally. It would not be fair to the men either."

Era Teal, Redondo Beach, aircraft worker:

"No. The council should be mixed, with a majority of men and a few women. Men generally can do a better job because they generally know the issues and problems involved better."

Mrs. Pat Popp, 1828 Calamar St., accounting machine operator:

"No. Maybe one or two women on the council would be all right, but it should not be all women. You'd get a much more balanced viewpoint that way."

Plea Entered By Jack Gee

A "not guilty" plea was entered by Jack Gee, former Torrance warrant officer, in Los Angeles Superior Court yesterday, to seven counts of embezzling public funds and one count of theft.

He asked for a jury trial which was set for April 21 in Department 46, Superior Court by Judge Albert Wheatcroft. He was represented by Attorney Tom McIver.

For nearly 10 years, Gee served out-of-town warrants for Torrance and other cities on a commission basis.



COURT CONTRACT DUE . . . Contracts for construction of the new branch of the municipal court on the Torrance civic center should be ready by next week, according to Supervisor Burton W. Chace. The building, designed by Architect Kenneth S. Wing of Long Beach, will provide permanent facilities for the South Bay Municipal Court in the city. The court sessions now are held in the old city hall in downtown Torrance.

School Boundaries Get Heated

How far children walk to school, boundary lines, and a controversial golf course were subjects of a heated discussion between parents and Torrance School Board members Tuesday night.

The subject in question was the problem of where to draw the boundary lines between Seaside and Calle Mayor Schools. School officials said no official decision has been reached yet.

ELKS' DOPE COMMITTEE SETS MEET

The Torrance Elks Anti-Narcotics Committee will hold its semi-monthly meeting at 8 p.m. tonight in the Elks Lodge 1951 W. Carson St.

All fraternal, civic, church, and educational groups, and service clubs are invited to send representatives. The program is designed to publicize the drastic results of narcotics addiction and to awaken parents and teenagers with the reality of the problem as it exists in Torrance, according to Chairman Joseph Yates.

"It is time for the public to realize that the illicit narcotics traffic problem concerns us all, for where there is a crime committed, there is at least one innocent victim and, but for the grace of God, it could be you," he said.

Yates said that a major crime is committed in the U.S. every 13 seconds. Of these, half committed in metropolitan areas are directly attributed to use of narcotics and major of those arrested for half crimes are under 25.

Rise in Dope Use Reflected In Rate of Crimes Reported

The FBI studies show that a definite relationship exists between the prevalence of crime and the use of narcotics. The cost of keeping an addict in dope is staggering—exceeding the amounts a user could expect to earn. To keep themselves supplied, they turn to crime . . . robbery, thefts, and burglary. Follow the details of the narcotics problem in this, the fifth of a series of articles in the Award Winning HERALD.

By VONDA CARLTON
Herald Staff Writer

The average dope addict needs \$200 a week to pay for heroin.

It's an expensive habit . . . especially since the addict cannot hold a job.

Where does the money come from? Perhaps this statement issued by the Federal Bureau of Investigation is the answer: "A major crime is committed in the United States every 13.3 seconds."

According to the 1956 U. S. Senate report on illicit narcotics, drug addiction is responsible for approximately 50 per cent of all crimes committed in the larger metropolitan areas and 25 per cent of all reported crimes in the nation.

Illicit Traffic

The illicit drug traffic has tripled in the United States since World War II. Crime has increased three times as fast as the population.

These are but a few of the shocking statistics uncovered by the FBI and the U. S. Senate investigating committee.

There are nationwide figures . . . but what about Torrance?

The figures match proportionately.

By simple arithmetic residents can add up the relationship between narcotics and crime.

Waterlogged Residents Ask Drain System

Waterlogged residents of Fiat, Jay, and 22nd Sts. Tuesday sent a petition to Supervisor Burton W. Chace, asking that the county install a drainage system so that their streets would not be flooded every time it rains.

Sixty-seven homeowners in the area signed the petition, according to Mrs. Marguerite Hogan, 1061 W. Fiat St. The area is located in county territory, just east of Meyler St.

In recent heavy rains, the residents found their street under water, with the muddy liquid lapping at their front doors. Now, Mrs. Hogan reported, the waters have gone down throughout most of the area, although it still stands in puddles and under homes.

The petition cites the damage done to lawns and homes, the potential health hazard of such stagnant water, and dangers to children who have to wade through the water.

Drains Asked

"The land owners pay taxes to the county of Los Angeles at a rate equal to the taxpayers in other county areas, based on assessed valuation," the petition says. "Therefore, they are entitled to systems which will cause flood waters to be drained away from said area in quantity and at a rate commensurate with county areas which now have such systems."

The streets are privately owned, with each householder owning a portion. Residents maintain that flood waters from other areas are being dumped on their property.

EL CAMINO MAY NAME PRESIDENT BY APRIL 1

Announcement of a new El Camino College president to succeed Forrest G. Murdock who is retiring is expected by April 1, school officials disclosed yesterday.

"Applicants from all parts of the nation have expressed an interest in the post," President Murdock said.

"The record of each will be considered carefully by the college board before any interviews with the top five or six candidates are scheduled," he added.

Officials have not said whether the appointment will come from within or outside of the college. A number of applications have come from current members of the college staff, Murdock admitted.

Of the three directors who originally served in key administrative posts with President Murdock, only Carl G. Arfwedson, director of business, remains in his original position. Arfwedson is not a candidate for the president's office, Murdock reported.

Applications of interested administrators are still being submitted to Murdock, who also serves as secretary to the board.

Committee For 4-Year College Set

Formation of a committee to seek establishment of a four-year state college here has been announced by Councilman Nick Drale.

Stating that he had discussed the matter with school officials and other interested in higher education, Drale asked support of the community in seeking establishment of a state college here.

Serving on the organizing committee in addition to Drale will be Mrs. Francis Stoeckle, past president of the Torrance PTA Council; John Mulvihill, member of the city's planning commission; and Councilman Willys G. Blount.

"The state has provided four-year colleges for nearly every other densely populated area of California. Why not for the booming Torrance and South Bay areas," Drale commented.

His request for city council support of the move was turned down when the matter was referred to the city's Coordinating Council.

"This committee has been organized and will continue to function, however," Drale said later.

He said statistics on enrollment potentials and other needs for a college district will be compiled by the committee.

Elks to Name New Officers

Nominations for new officers for Torrance Elks Lodge 1948 opened last evening and will continue each Wednesday until the March 19 election, according to Exalted Ruler Ralph Jakubowski.

Nominations will be accepted again next Wednesday and again on March 19 before the election. Jakubowski announced.

CIGARET IN CHAIR GETS FIRE BLAME

Fire destroyed furniture in a den and caused heavy damage to a house at 119 Via Buena Ventura, Monday night, according to Torrance firemen.

A cigarette left in an overstuffed chair apparently started the fire, firemen said. The residents, the B. Cunninghams, had gone to bed about 9:30 and were awakened by smoke about 11:15, they said. There was heavy smoke damage throughout the house.

A Sunday blaze burned a hole in the roof around the ventilator at the Susana Dunn home, 24422 Los Codona. The fire apparently was caused when ventilating equipment failed to function.

Hollywood Riviera Residents Name Hanson as President

Hollywood Riviera Homeowners Assn. has named William J. Hanson, laboratory director for Dow Chemical Co. in Torrance, as the new president of the group.

Hanson succeeds Ben Russell in the executive post.

The new president served as vice president of the home owners' group last year and had headed the active Library Committee activities. He is a member of Torrance Library Board and formerly was chairman of the Southern California section, American Chemical Society, comprising 1800 members.

Others Elected

Others elected Monday night were:

David Halstead, vice president; Mrs. Ralph A. Rector, recording secretary; Mrs. Robert Jahn, corresponding secretary; and Mrs. Harvey Spelman, treasurer.

18-Year-Olds Held for Trial

Bail was set at \$1000 for three 18-year-olds arraigned in South Bay Municipal Court Monday on charges of suspicion of burglary and possession of narcotics.

Arraigned were Billy Dewayne Pearson, 18, of Hawthorne; John Curt Strom, of Gardena, and Bruce Stewart Ferguson of Lawndale.

Acting under the supervision of Lt. D. C. Cook, head of the Torrance Juvenile and narcotics division, Officers H. B. Ingram and Gus Rethwisch staked out an apartment at 3833 Spencer St.

The officers, according to Lt. Cook, prevented the suspects from flushing "four cans" of marijuana down the toilet, after entering the residence and discovering the trio in the bathroom.

Value of the narcotics was estimated at \$350.

A fourth man, Gerald A. Gardener, 19, occupant of the apartment, was later taken into custody for questioning and then released.

Arraignment Ordered for 19-Year-Old

A 19-year-old youth returned from Iowa last week on burglary charges was held for Superior Court arraignment after a preliminary hearing here Monday.

Frederick M. Smith, 19, of 23125 Catskill Ave., was extradited from Cedar Rapids, Iowa, after his arrest there on a Torrance warrant. Detective Sgt. Don Hamilton brought Smith back to California.

The suspect has admitted to nearly 100 thefts in the area, according to police. He will be arraigned in Superior Court on March 17.

An alleged accomplice, Gerald L. Clark, 19, of 21339 Moneta Ave., is due in court today for sentencing after pleading guilty to a burglary charge.

Oldest Lady In Torrance Dies at 102

Funeral services for Mrs. Elizabeth Frances Hiers, 102, believed to have been the oldest person in Torrance, will be held at 2 p.m. today, with the Rev. John L. Taylor officiating.

She had lived here about 10 months, leaving her home with a daughter, Mrs. Rachel M. Linville, 1318 Kornblum Ave. She died Monday in Harbor General Hospital.

Born May 6, 1855 in Harrison, Ohio, she could remember seeing Morgan's Raiders pass her home in one of the famed Civil War episodes.

New Hearing Slated for Water Tiff

Rehearings in the dispute between the city and the Dominguez Water Co. on a water service area agreement have been scheduled before the State Public Utilities Commission on April 2.

The city is seeking to hold the private water firm to an agreement made in 1953 which gave the firm 10 years to serve the Southwest Park home development in the city. After this time, according to the agreement, the system would be turned over to the city-owned Torrance Municipal Water District.

The Dominguez firm last year moved to have the agreement set aside.

Examiner Grant E. Syphers will preside at the April 2 hearing which will be held at 10 a.m. in the Commission Courtroom, 145 S. Spring St., Los Angeles.

Lawn Mower Taken

A hand lawn mower and edger was reported missing from a garage Monday by Walter Hillier, 916 Amapola Ave., according to local police.

Burglars evidently entered the garage during the night and removed the tools, police said.

Rivets Reports

"My weather equipment's gone crazy," woofed Rivets, HERALD weatherdog, as he studied his gauges. "It indicates that there's a fair possibility of rain today, but on the other hand, it may be clear and warmer. So be prepared for anything."

High and low temperatures this week included Sunday (68-44); Monday (65-39); Tuesday (74-57); and Wednesday (73-40).

