

Airplane Hijacker Wins Review

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50th Year — No. 17



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BANDITS STRIKE TWO FIRMS

A Penny for your Thoughts

"Do you think the minimum age for driver's license should be raised from 16 to 18 years?" the Pennies inquirer asked.

Mike Henderson, Inglewood:
"No, I don't think it should be. Careless driving comes in at age 16 but statistics show many accidents occur in the 21 age bracket. The age requirement should remain the way it is now, 16."

Mrs. Lanny LeVier, 611 Madrid:
"I think kids are doing ok now with driver education courses in high school. I really think they are responsible enough at 16 and the responsibility is good for them. They learn they have to take care of a car and bear the expense such as buying gasoline."

Miss Darlene Meeker, 1024 Maple Ave.:
"I think it's up to the individual as to whether they are ready to drive at 16. I think age 16 should be kept as the minimum age to obtain a driver's license."

Mrs. Wes Scruggs, 23031 Pennsylvania:
"Yes, I think so and always have. Raising it to 18 might help cut down a little bit on the careless driving and kids who show off with cars."

Carol Vurasser, 3409 W. 166th St.:
"Yes, I think it should be. My sister gets her driver's license in a couple of months and I don't think she is ready for one. Most teenagers are mature enough at 16 to drive but I think the minimum for a license should be 18."

Lions to Roar
The Lions Club will celebrate its 18th anniversary Saturday evening at the Hacienda Hotel, San Pedro. Guests are welcome to the \$5.50 per person dinner dance.

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Ex-Torrance Man to Have New Hearing

Review of the life sentence ordered for an ex-Torrance man in 1961 for hijacking an airliner over New Mexico has been ordered by the U. S. Supreme Court.

In a decision announced Monday, the court ordered reconsideration of the sentence imposed on Leon Bearden, who formerly lived at 3319 W. 190th St., on Bearden's plea that he was unable to finance the appearance of his lawyer in the federal court in El Paso.



L. MILTON ISBELL Enters School Contest

THE FORMER Torrance roofing company employe was charged with boarding an airliner at International Airport on Aug. 4, 1961, with his son, Cody, then 16, and ordering the flight to go on to Cuba when the craft was over New Mexico.

Capt. Byron D. Richards, 343 Palos Verdes Blvd., reported that he had insufficient fuel for the flight and landed in El Paso. There, Bearden released all but four of the plane's 65 passengers and the six-man crew and held police and FBI agents at bay for nearly nine hours.

LEONARD GILMAN, Immigration Service officer aboard the plane, ended the siege when Bearden dropped his guard. Gilman landed a smashing blow to the jaw of the hijacker, and FBI agents rushed in and subdued him.

In Monday's decision, the Supreme Court ordered the U.S. Circuit Court in New Orleans to reconsider its decision in upholding the sentence. The high court said Bearden should have an opportunity to present oral argument on the merits of his case, or have an attorney to present them.

No date for the rehearing was announced.

Two More In Board Contests

Two more have added their names to the slate for election to the Torrance Board of Education, bringing the total number of candidates to six as of yesterday afternoon, according to officials in the offices of the County Superintendent of Schools.

Latest to file declarations were L. Milton Isbell, former Torrance YMCA executive secretary, now a Torrance real estate executive, and Mrs. K. Heaton, wife of George L. Heaton, general superintendent of the Rome Cable Division, Aluminum Company of America.

FILING EARLIER for the April 16 election were the two incumbents, Dr. Kurt T. Shery

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Jaycees Endorse Bell Ringing Idea

Torrance's Junior Chamber of Commerce has endorsed a project called "Let Freedom Ring" which calls for ringing of bells throughout the nation on July 4 in commemoration of the nation's birthdate.

The idea encompasses ringing of bells on government buildings, colleges, churches, courthouses for four minutes.



THREE TODAY . . . The triplet sons of Mr. and Mrs. John Watson, 3126 W. 187th St., will have a cowboy party to celebrate their third birthdays today. Here (from left) DeWayne, Danny, and David try to type out invitations for their party. The Watsons will learn today whether David will need corrective heart surgery. Tests also are being made on brothers DeWayne and Danny . . . "just in case," their mother said. (Herald Photo)

Proposed Oil Ban Put Over Two More Weeks

Final adoption of an ordinance banning all new oil drilling in the city and requiring the concealment of present pumping equipment was shelved for another two weeks Tuesday after two members of the City Council asked for the delay.

Councilman George Vico first asked for the delay, saying he had been asked to seek the postponement by spokesmen for the Standard Oil Co.

Councilman Ross A. Sciarrotta backed up Vico's request when it was determined that information pertaining to the several aspects of the oil industry in the city he had requested was not yet available.

The ordinance has been interpreted as a direct move against the claims of Santa Fe that the land sought for the four-year state college site here has valuable oil rights for which compensation would be due.

In other action before the Council Tuesday, the employment of Howard Martin to appraise property in the area of 231st Street and Arlington Avenue was approved over the objections of Mayor Albert Isen and Councilmen Victor Benstead and George Vico.

Isen objected to the proposed employment, saying the city

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Council Asks Budget Study For Officers

The time was about 9:30 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 26. At the Torrance City Hall, members of the City Council were discussing the need for added police protection because of the growing crime rate in the city, which includes several recent armed robberies.

At the Food Giant Market at 190th Street and Inglewood Avenue, clerk Garfield T. Stevens was stuffing bills into a paper sack, urged on by a man holding a revolver.

At Cory's Liquors, Carson Street and Andree Avenue, clerk Joe Michael Donovan was placing money in another paper sack, also urged on by a man holding a gun.

IT WAS Tuesday, again, and detectives who were beginning to think they had escaped what is beginning to be a regular Tuesday routine, were in for a shock.

Stevens told officers investigating the robbery at the Food Giant Market that the gunman approached the checkout stand, pulled a revolver, and said,

"It's a holdup! Start with the big bills first. I parked right here — if you follow me, I'll shoot."

A few seconds later he made good on his word.

AFTER PUTTING an estimated \$121 in the bandit's sack, Stevens and Herbert Dean Martin, another market employe, ran after the gunman in the market parking lot.

"I got a gun and I'll shoot," the gunman yelled.

Martin jumped behind a parked vehicle as the bandit shot at him, he told officers.

A HERALD editorial Sunday cited growing robbery and burglary rate in the city and suggested the city consider seriously the need for additional patrolmen.

He and Stevens gave up the chase after the shooting, Martin said.

Within a few minutes of that robbery, clerk Donovan at the liquor store said he had just put some soft drinks into a refrigerator in the rear of the building and had returned to the front to serve a customer.

THE "CUSTOMER" displayed a pistol and said,

"This is it. Place the money in a paper bag."

On the bandit's orders Donovan got down on the floor behind the counter while the gunman fled. A determination of the loss was not immediately available.

Councilman Kenneth Miller at the time was commenting on what he called "a real increase in crime," and was asking that serious consideration be given to providing more police officers in the next city budget

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MRS. KENNETH E. WATTS Suggests School Site Delay

Deferment On School Site Asked

A suggestion that the Board of Education delay its action on the Marble Tract school site until the location of the new four-year state college to serve this area has been determined was advanced this week by Mrs. Kenneth E. Watts, vice chairman of the city's college steering committee and a candidate for election to the school board.

In a letter to the board this week, Mrs. Watts said selection of the proposed Torrance site at Sepulveda and Crenshaw would have "a tremendous impact upon the community," and that land now being planned for a own-your-own apartments, golf course, and single family residences "would be a veritable gold mine for student apartments."

SELECTION OF A site for the four-year college may come at the March meeting of the Board of Trustees for State College scheduled in Sacramento next week.

"Since a decision on the college site is so close, it would seem prudent to defer your decision until you could verify the projected child population with the land developers," she wrote.

THE PROPOSED elementary school to serve the new development south of Sepulveda

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OPENS MARCH 7 . . . Pictured above is White Front's new giant store located at the corner of Hawthorne and Torrance Blvs. This makes the eighth location for the discount department store chain, which will officially open at a ribbon-cutting ceremony at 10 a.m., March 7. Torrance civic dignitaries and Hollywood Stars will preside and join in the fun and excitement of this grand opening.

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