

MYRNA HANSEN, MISS USA, TO JUDGE LOCAL CONTEST

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New Director, Van Bellehem, Outlines Recreation Plan

Expresses Belief in School Cooperation

Harry Van Bellehem, the new recreation director for Torrance, said that he believes in cooperation with the schools and that he will look into the matter of using school facilities as part of the new recreation program which he has in mind for this city.

"I am even willing to take a back-seat if that will get us a better recreational program. I don't care who takes the credit. I don't want it for myself, if the community can be helped through this," he said.

People-Minded
"You see," Van Bellehem continued quietly but with conviction, "some people are political-minded, some are power-minded, but I like to think that I am people-minded. There are all sorts of things that people say recreation is. I believe that it is a service. Those of us who deal with recreation should think of it as such."

The new recreation head who started his duties as of Saturday August 1, said that he hopes to get an active recreational program started by bringing recreation close to the different areas in this city and adjusting it to the needs and facilities of those areas.

One of the greatest desires of people, he declared, is to serve others, and he feels that by organizing recreation efficiently at these local levels he will find individuals who will be pleased to help organize a sound recreational program.

Decentralization
The administrative method which he has in mind is a decentralized, rather than a centralized one. By keeping the program decentralized, he explained, it is possible for him to keep in touch with the actual needs of different parts of the community. When a program becomes centralized, there is the tendency to crave power, to dictate a blanket-policy from inside an office, and to lose touch with individual needs, the director stated.

Van Bellehem, who lives at 2071 W. 162nd st. and who has lived in Torrance since 1938, said that he would meet with various groups and individuals within the next few weeks to talk over the situation.

MONEY TROUBLE — SUICIDE

Financial difficulties is the only explanation Mrs. Kathrine Stripplin had in accounting for her husband's suicide.

John E. Stripplin, 47, of 5429 Linda Dr. was found dead in his car by his wife yesterday morning, the victim of carbon monoxide poisoning.

Mrs. Stripplin said that her husband, an electric engineer, had arrived home from work Tuesday night. He did not eat anything but had taken several drinks—whiskey and beer.

There was an argument over (Continued on Page 5)

Board Members . . .

ASK LEGION TO SUBMIT NAME LIST

Judge John Shidler, president of the Board of Education, told representatives of the American Legion that they could submit a list of suggested school-names and that the Board "will give it consideration."

Heading a representation from the American Legion, Vern Coil, service officer, asked that the Torrance School District revise its school-naming policy in part by naming an occasional school or (Continued on Page 5)



THOSE WHO WILL HELP Harry Van Bellehem (seated), new Torrance recreational director, in carrying out the new program are (from left to right): Miss Doris Avis, director of special activities and of the Alondra swim program; Elmer "Red" Moon, city athletic director; Harry Van Bellehem; and Dale Riley, maintenance superintendent.

Supervisor Chace Visits Torrance

County Supervisor Burton K. Chace "dropped in" on Torrance this week, Monday, for an informal visit.

William Tolson, local realtor and member of the Board of Education, introduced the Supervisor to local officials, including City Manager George Stevens and Mayor Mervin Schwab.

LOCAL CITY EMPLOYEES FACE RETIREMENT POLL

A request will shortly be made of the City Council to take a vote among city employees whether they wish to withdraw from the State retirement system or not.

Such a poll, which is being requested by the Public Employees Local No. 1135, would (Continued on Page 4)

If Old Car Were Dodo, Then . . .

It's strange, the sort of problems people have.

Some worry about making a living; some worry about paying bills; and some worry about what to worry over.

But Mrs. C. J. Dean, of 22615 Suzanna, just worried about how she could ever sell a common old automobile.

If she had had a unicorn, or a hobgoblin, or a dodo, or a chimera, or even just a silly old sea serpent, why, she would have been swamped with calls from all over the world and she could have asked any price.

If only the object which she had for sale hadn't been so common.

So what did she do? She simply rid herself of the worry by placing the following 75¢ ad in the Torrance Press Classified section.

FOR SALE 1946 Willys Station Wagon. Body Mint. Needs Inserts. \$350. FFL 5-5829.

The response couldn't have been swifter or more gratifying if the car had been a dodo.

If the object won't sell itself, why not let us sell it for you?

PROPOSE BEACH REMEDY

Steps are being taken to remedy the Torrance Beach scandal brought to the attention of the city last week by concerned residents living near Via Riviera and De La Playa, the focal point of the trouble.

Police
Police Chief John Stroh stated that he will ask the City Council to pass an ordinance similar to those applying to other beaches which will make it unlawful to park on the beach after a certain time at night. He will also have his men patrol the area.

When a citizen's complaint was first registered with the City Council last week, there was some confusion as to jurisdiction over Torrance Beach. Since the beach is county-operated, it was thought that any commotion there would be county responsibility.

City Responsibility
Captain Fred England, of the Lennox Sheriff's Station, explained that as long as an area is part of an incorporated territory, anything which goes on in that area is that city's responsibility regardless of who else is operating in that area.

A check by city officials revealed that the territory was part of the incorporated territory of Torrance.

Police Chief John Stroh and Captain Fred England both declared that the two departments have always worked in close harmony and were ready to cooperate with each other at all times. The two officials showed great respect for each other.

Residents in the area have complained of being terrorized and abused by gangs of adolescents and young adults who have used the beach area for riotous living, brawls, and orgies especially on week-end nights.

Include only the Miscellaneous Employees, which means that police and firemen would be excluded, according to City Manager George Stevens.

Once the State retirement system has been voted upon favorably by the employees, it is compulsory that every employee join it.

Torrance employees some time ago voted for the retirement system and are now under it.

Mixed Feelings
Stevens said that the State retirement plan offers many benefits, but that there are mixed feelings among city employees concerning the system. Some favor it because it is a forced savings plan; offers higher retirement pay than any other plan (for example, social security); and permits the individual to continue working full time and at any salary he wants to when he becomes eligible for his full retirement pay.

On the other hand the major objection from employees has come because of the considerable cost involved in this retirement plan. The periodic payments are quite high.

Of the city employees, firemen and policemen have been very much in favor of the plan, Stevens said.

All or Nothing
It is not possible for some employees to join the retirement system and others not. The matter is one of all or nothing at all.

Social Security
There is little possibility that city employees could join the federal social security program, Stevens said. Such are the regu-

(Continued on Page 4)

Beauty to Help Choose Queen

Torrance will dazzle with loveliness when, in addition to the 24 local lovelies who have entered the "Miss Torrance" contest, lovely Myrna Rae Hansen, 18, Miss U.S.A., will come to Torrance for the queen-judging Tuesday night, August 18, according to W. E. Bowen, president of the sponsoring Torrance Area Youth Band.

Miss Hansen, who was a close runner-up for the title of Miss Universe in the recent contest held at Long Beach, needs no other qualifications to comment on any

Myrna Hansen, Miss USA and second to Miss France, winner of the Miss Universe Contest in Long Beach, will attend the crowning of Miss Torrance in the Civic Auditorium on Tuesday night, August 18. Miss USA will act as one of the judges and assist Shirley White, Miss Torrance of 1952, in crowning the new queen.

Other judges include Oscar Meinhardt, executive producer of the Miss Universe Pageant; Barbara Blakeley, beauty consultant to the Miss Universe Pageant, and Paul Masterson, International Disc Jockey. Miss USA is now signed to a long term movie contract with Universal International Studios in Hollywood.

beauty contest than her beautiful blond hair, warm, brown eyes, even smile, and 125 pound, 5-foot, 7-inch frame, 37-inch bust, 25-inch waist, and 35-inch hips.

Tickets On Sale

A total of 24 contestants entered the contest by the time deadline was reached last Monday. Queen-hopefuls will be seen selling tickets for the judging from now till the date of the contest. The program will not only include the selection of "Miss Torrance" but professional entertainment will be provided as well, according to James Van Dyck, director of the Torrance Area Youth Bands.

Van Dyck also stated that Oscar Meinhardt, producer of the Miss Universe Pageant in Long Beach last year, had agreed to head the panel of judges which will select the "Miss Torrance" of 1953.

Coronation Ball
A coronation ball will follow Saturday night, August 22, at Club Alondra on Prairie ave. just north of Redondo Beach Blvd. Separate tickets will be sold for that event.

Prizes

Prizes for the winner include an all expenses paid week-end trip to Las Vegas, via Western Air Lines, with accommodations at the famous Thunderbird Hotel. The free trip will also be free for the queen's chaperone.

Other prizes for the queen and her runners-up include a bathing suit, a pair of DeLise Deb shoes, and an album of popular records contributed by local merchants.

Contestants

All contestants are unmarried and between the ages of 15½ and 30. They have a sponsor who paid the entrance fee of \$5. The money goes to defray the expenses of staging the contest.

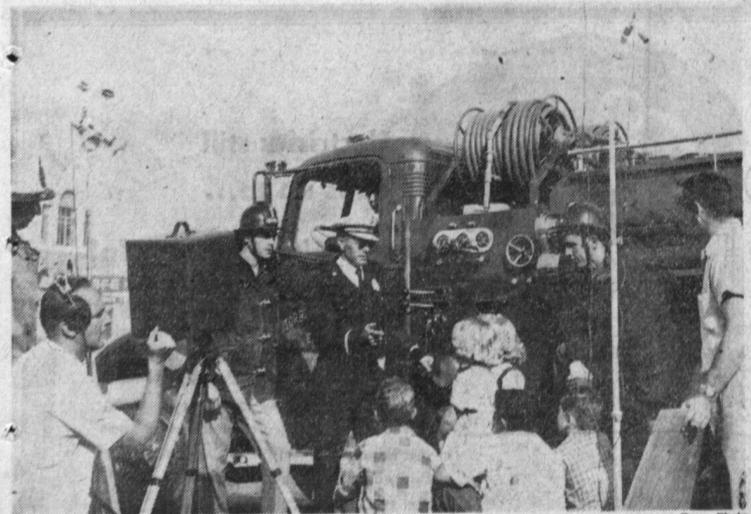
Contestants and their sponsors are as follows:

Ella Mae McLeod, 16, Gay Shop; Dolores Patronsky, 16, Daniel's



MYRNA HANSEN
Miss U.S.A. coming to Torrance.

Cafe; Jo Ann Howard, 18, Safety Mortgage; Betty Weiler, 16, Trend O'Fashion; Maureen Monahan, 18, Currie's; Gail Thompson, 17, Newberry's; Jo Ann Harlan, 16, A-1 Photo; Margaret Epefania, 16, Western Auto; Sandra Lee Constance, 16, La Galeria Florist; Mary Ann Notman, Lawson's Jewelers; Karen Dean, 20, Mari Lynn Dress Shop; Frida Kittrell, 17, B-R Cleaners; Aline Sparks, 18, Torrance Heating and Appliance; Ann Firlit, 16, Photo Arts; Pat Gaida, 17, Torrance Cycle and Sports Shop; Johanne Parker, 15½, Cress Manor Beauty Salon; Shirley Lostien, 16 (no definite sponsor yet); Theresa Simon, 18, Torrance Loan Co.; Pat Pierce, 16, Crest (Continued on Page 4)



A PICTURE ABOUT A PICTURE . . . "Punch and Trudy", one of a series of 13 TV films, involves the Torrance fire department. The picture was completed recently by Riviera Productions. The whole series deals with the modern-day adventures of Punch and Trudy, 16 and 6 years old, respectively. Seven more pictures must be made before the series will be shown on TV. Seen in this picture are, from left to right: Captain Leonard Christian, Tommy Lee Brannon, Fireman Larry Schneider, Engineer Bill Stonecker (in the cab), Battalion Chief Neil Whitney, Patty Zens, JoAnn Zens, Fireman Sam Martin, Arthur Van Hooscar, Ronald Ramos, Robert Brannon, Harry Moss, (reflector), and Will Zens (owner and cameraman).



FINAL BATCH—These are the last contestants to enter the "Miss Torrance" contest. Would-be queens and their sponsors are (kneeling, right to left and around): Pat Gaida, 17, Torrance Cycle and Sports Shop; Johanne Parker, 15½, Cress Manor Beauty Salon; Shirley Lostien, 16 (sponsor not definite); Theresa Simon, 18, Torrance Loan Co.; Pat Pierce, 16, Crest Furniture; Shirley Salzman, 18, Benson's Dress Shop; Beverly Dablin, 18, Optimist Club; Toni Forella, 16, Torrance Flower Shop; Norma Pierce, 15½, Kettler Knolls Drug; Ann Leo, 16, Joslin Lumber Co.