

TWO TEENAGERS RAPED, HUNT TORRANCE YOUTH

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DEEP HOLE was burned into the living room when a couch caught fire at 19349 Flavian ave. Mrs. Elizabeth O. Lair died of suffocation. Fire was apparently caused by a burning cigarette. Fire Marshal Bob Lucas (l) and Capt. Frank Tuttle inspect the scene.

Two Gabriela girls who accepted a ride to school from three Torrance youths, were reportedly raped and held prisoners at a Torrance address Monday before being freed by police.

Charged by the district attorney with forcible rape were Dick D. Fields, 19, of 1620 W. 219th st. and Paul Thomas Jones, 19, of 1410 216th st., both of Torrance. A 16-year-old youth was turned over to juvenile authorities, according to Sgt. D. C. Cook, of the Torrance Police Department's juvenile bureau.

Police are still searching for Jones who is described as having straight blondish light-brown hair, combed in a duck-tail and widow's peak, wearing blue jeans and a white sweat shirt when last seen. He is about 5' 9" tall and weighs 155 pounds. Jones usually displays an arrogant manner, it was stated.

Didn't Know Youths

The two girls, 14 and 15 years old, were picked up in Gardena, taken to school, and then...

go for a ride." They did not know the youths... they were "nice."

Instead they were taken to a... by the three youths. A neighbor, hearing screams, called Officer Miles Hamilton... he was waiting for a traffic warrant... on him and placed him under arrest.

Hamilton then went after the two of the house. When other officers arrived... they spread out a dragnet for the youngsters. Officer Don Hamilton found the boys hiding in the bus.

Prior to the arrival of other police officers, however, Jones made his escape. Fields and Jones both have previous police records, Cook stated.

TORRANCE PRESS

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VOL. VII 1 2 THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1955 — TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA NO. 36

Woman Suffocates as Couch Catches Fire

A 39-year-old woman who had apparently fallen asleep without properly putting out her cigarette, died of suffocation Sunday. Though the couch on which she was sleeping caught fire and burned a deep hole into the floor and the woman sought to escape the suffocating fumes, she only managed to get to the hallway where firemen found her negligee-clad body.

Dead is Mrs. Elizabeth O. Lair of 19349 Flavian ave. The fire apparently stayed in a smoldering stage from about 3 a.m. until 8 a.m., before it burst into flame, Fire Marshal Bob Lucas conjectured. It was discovered and reported by Richard L. Pierce of 19345 Flavian.

Firemen applied a resuscitator but the woman did not respond, and was declared dead on arrival at Harbor General Hospital.

Survivors include the husband, Chief Warrant Officer Everett Lair, who was on a training cruise when the tragedy occurred, and the mother, Mrs. Richard Dowell, 822 Sartori. The woman was wearing a white gold wrist watch and a silver religious medal on a silver chain around her neck. Her husband was expected back the following day.

Inter-City Court Battle Pooh-Poohed

Mayor Albert Isen pooh-poohed Redondo's fear that it will lose its municipal court and even its hoped-for superior court as a result of Torrance's attempt to obtain such courts. "We don't want them to lose their court," Mayor Isen said. "We just want our own municipal court." "As for the superior court," he continued, "that's an entirely different issue and it is wide open." Isen's remarks referred to remarks made by Redondo City Attorney Frank L. Perry at Monday's council meeting. "If we go to sleep on the job," (Turn to Page 24)

New Market, 17 Stores To Be Built

Ground was broken Tuesday on a new Jim Dandy market at Lomita Blvd. and Western ave. and plans for the construction of 17 stores at the same location were announced. Announcement was made by Marvin V. Steiner of the Joe Braverman co., real estate agent for the property. Steiner stated that the shopping center covers 5½ acres and is valued at about \$1,000,000. George Pappas and co. will develop the 17 stores which will include a drug store, hardware store, and baby shop, among others. An L-shaped design will be used. Steiner also stated that a medical group will probably be constructed on the west corner of the property. It is anticipated that construction on these stores will start within about two months. Arthur Menke, president of MacIsaac and Menke, contractors, indicated that the Jim Dandy market will probably be completed around June 30 of next year. There will be off-street parking for 350 cars.

Auto Contest Winner Will Have Fabulous New Year

This is the first time I've ever won something in my whole life—especially something as fabulous as this!" So stated Frank Rametta, 2903 167th st., Torrance, upon being informed that he won the auto contest entitling him and his wife to a free New Year's weekend at the Ambassador hotel climaxed by attendance at the Rose Parade and Rose Bowl game.

Rametta's winning statement (in 25 words or less) read as follows: "I will buy my next car from a Torrance new car dealer because 'hometown friendliness, honesty, and dependability means fullest satisfaction to me and success to the progress of the individual and community development.'" Rametta and his wife will stay at the Ambassador Hotel, from Friday evening, December 30 until Monday, December 2. They will celebrate New Year's in the Cocoanut Grove, including a 5-course dinner.

The contest was sponsored by local auto dealers including Oscar Maples Ford, Whittlesley Motors (DeSoto-Plymouth Torrance Lincoln-Mercury, Butler Buick, and Paul's Chevrolet. George Whittlesley was contest chairman. Entrants were judged by participating dealers.

Rametta is an instrument technician at the Torrance Douglas plant and has lived in Torrance a little over a year. "I just feel that this couldn't have happened to us," Rametta exclaimed incredulously. "I've wanted to see a Rose Bowl game every since I was a boy—it's a boyhood's dream come true."

'Premium' Cement Back Again

Request that the city pay a "premium" for sand and gravel so that construction of the swimming pool could continue, was temporarily recommended for denial by City Manager George Stevens.

"I'm not ready to recommend it," Stevens said. Stevens told the council that Walker and Murphy, general contractors, asked the city to pay the premium because of the strike in order to keep work going on the project.

It was asked that the request would be put in writing and submitted next week for consideration.

Stevens said the "premium" would amount to several thousand dollars—about \$4000. The city permitted spending a few hundred dollars for "premium" cement recently to keep the city hall and fire building construction going. "If we do authorize this, my opinion is that..."

El Nido School Goes To Redondo

Annexation of the El Nido area lying within the city of Redondo to the El Nido school district was approved by the County Board of Supervisors Tuesday. Petitions bearing 160 signatures asked for such annexation. The area—bordered by 190th st., Inglewood ave., the railroad tracks, and the Redondo city boundaries—has been a center of controversy since the city of Redondo annexed it without taking it out of the Torrance school district. Local school officials felt reluctant about shouldering responsibility over an area belonging to another city, while trying to reap the benefits of the Torrance school district.



THE LITTLEST ANGEL... Santa Land in El Prado Park will be the scene of the ACCENT: theatre! production of "The Littlest Angel," under the auspices of the Retail Merchants association. In the cast are: (l-r) Mrs. Robert Kelsey and Mrs. Frank Kelley, and (l-r) Carol Foss, Lynn Renfro, Bobby Renfro, and Joan Renfro. Press Photo.

The Littlest Angel To Play Three Nights In Santaland

The ACCENT: theatre! production of "The Littlest Angel," will play in Santaland in El Prado Park, on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, December 19, 20 and 21, at 8 p.m.

This modern classic tells the story of a little boy who gives the thing he loves most to the Christ Child on His Birthday.

Bobby Renfro, the son of Mrs. Madeleine Renfro, plays the title role. The Renfros have recently moved to Torrance from New York City, where Bobby was a Conover model and appeared in numerous NBC and CBS television shows.

Alternating as narrators will be Mrs. Robert Kelsey and Mrs. Frank Kelley, Robert Adams will play the "Good Gatekeeper." The production is under the direction of Noralee Benedict. Ann Humphreys is assistant to the director.

Cherubim will be played by Carol Foss, Dierdre Dyer, Pamela Boswell, Lynn and Joan (Turn to Page 24)

Commercial Trash Charge Studied Here

Service charge for special commercial refuse collections is being studied by the City Council.

City Manager George Stevens proposed that such a charge would be made for refuse collected above the nine cubic feet pickup a week for which there is no charge.

About 200 accounts would be involved, he said. Torrance is one of the few cities which provides its own pickup service. Even if it starts charging, cost would be less than in other cities where refuse is collected commercially, Stevens said.

'Hazardous' Sumps Face Court Action

The city will crack down on violators of the sump ordinance as of December 23 when the law goes into effect, and officials have been instructed to haul violators straight into court. This may even affect sumps which meet all legal requirements if they happen to present "hazards."

George Powell informed the council that he knows of a number of cases where the ordinance is being violated and that he and another official will carry on an intensive three-day investigation the day the ordinance goes into effect.

One day prior to Mayor Albert Isen's order to crack down on sump violators last week, Assistant City Attorney Stan Rasmussen submitted a letter to Powell advising: "I believe that if such hazards (sumps, even if they comply with legal requirements) serve no present useful purposes, they can be abated as a public nuisance."

The issue faced up as a result of a boy's recent death by drowning in a Lomita crater, even though the crater met all legal requirements.

C of C to Hold Breakfast Tues.

The monthly community breakfast sponsored by the Torrance Chamber of Commerce will be held Tuesday, December 20, at the YWCA, starting at 7:30.

Dr. C. Mansel Keene, manager of the US Civil Service Commission in Los Angeles will be guest speaker. Reservations may be made by calling the Chamber, FA 8-2814. Mervin Schwab is program chairman.

Pressed For Funds? Press Has Answer

'Need cash for Christmas? There's no faster way of raising it than through a Torrance Press classified ad.

Mrs. Martha Grove, 5010 DeLane st., needed some ready cash and decided to sell her Hotpoint freezer.

She placed the following ad in the Torrance Press classified section: "I had so many calls that I sold the freezer for cash immediately." Mrs. Grove, who has just moved into this area, exclaimed.

HOTPOINT FREEZER—15 cu. ft. Chest type. Excellent condition. Must sell to raise cash. FR. 9-8543

New Kiwanis Club Forming

A new Kiwanis club now forming in Waleria, will hold its organizational dinner meeting Thursday, December 29, at Whitrow's cafe in Waleria, starting at 6:30 p.m. Temporary officers include Joe Bellante, president, and Don Whann, secretary-treasurer.

How Do Parents Feel About 'Little Red School House'?

"How do parents feel about the 'little red school house' plan being tried in a number of classes at Waleria elementary school?" For the third in a series of four articles on this experiment attempting to combine the best of the old and the best of the new in education, turn to page 7.



GROUND BREAKING TEAM... Ground was broken Tuesday for a new Jim Dandy market to be located at Lomita Blvd. and Western ave. Attending were (l-r) Dave Wilkinson, president, Lomita Chamber of Commerce; Marvin V. Steiner of Joe Braverman co., real estate agent; Arthur Menke, president of MacIsaac and Menke, contractors; William H. Dyer, Jr., vice-president, Jim Dandy market; John P. Jamison, of John P. Jamison associates, engineering firm.—Press Photo.

Only 9 More Shopping Days Until Christmas!