

THE FABULOUS STORY OF HANSE VERMOS

A Torrance man startled TV viewers this week when he submitted to hypnosis and allegedly recalled experiences which pointed toward a previous existence more than 100 years ago.

Subject of this extraordinary experiment was Jim Whitmer, 42, owner of Whitrow's cafe, 3800 Pacific Coast highway. Whitmer submitted to hypnosis during which experience he was allegedly taken back before the time of his birth. He began to describe life as a little boy of eight in Holland in 1855, giving his name as Hanse Vermos and even speaking Dutch.

When questioned about this afterwards, Whitmer assured witnesses that he was born in the United States, that he has never been outside of the United States, and that he has never known a word of Dutch. The name Hanse Vermos, as well as the whole strange experience, remains a mystery to him.

On "Confidential File" Whitmer appeared on Paul Coates' "Confidential File" Sunday night as a result of the nationwide interest being shown in the controversial book "The Search for Bridey Murphy."

The book offers evidence that a Pueblo, Colorado house-

wife, Ruth Simmons, 32, lived another life between 1798 and 1864 as Bridey Murphy McCarthy, wife of a barrister in Belfast, Ireland.

This case was brought to light by Morey Bernstein, a millionaire businessman of Pueblo whose hobby is hypnosis. Seven years ago, Whitmer was hypnotized at a meeting of the Walteria Businessmen's club. An odd thing happened. The

LATE BULLETIN: Jim Whitmer may again appear on Coates' program Sunday night (9:30 p.m., channel 11). He may be accompanied by his mother. Also appearing on the program will be Franchel.

hypnotist attempted to take Whitmer back to a time before his birth and the strange evidence concerning Hanse Vermos came to light.

Whitmer continued to live with this knowledge these many years. A friend of his, Loring Bigelow, who witnessed the incredible experiment, thought of it again in conjunction with the present interest in "Bridey Murphy." He contacted Coates a week ago Wednesday.

By Sunday night Whitmer was on TV and Los Angeles residents witnessed the story of a local "Bridey Murphy" case unfold before their eyes.

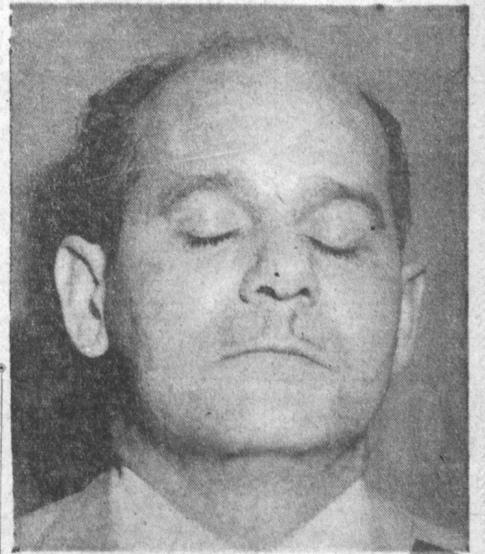
Placed Under Hypnosis Emile Franchel, of the Modern School of Hypnotism and Auto-Suggestion in Van Nuys, had put Whitmer under hypnosis and now began a series of age regressions which allegedly took Whitmer back to a previous existence.

When asked to tell what he saw or felt before the time of his birth, Whitmer started out by describing a dome and a big building which was gold in color. He had no sensation of time or space other than that, and he was not aware of having a body. He agreed with Franchel that he was just a thought or mind.

After traveling further in "time and space" he saw a house and described it as being in Rotterdam, Holland, 1855.

When asked his name he spelled out Hanse Vermos. He said that he was eight years old.

Hanse next saw a school house and identified his teacher by name. When asked to recite a poem and prayer in Dutch, (Turn to Page 6)



JIM WHITMER... Torrance businessman, experiences age regression while under hypnosis on TV program. — Press Photo

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1956 — TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA

NO. 43

Council Sides with Firemen In Promotion Controversy

APPEALS MADE FOR JUSTICE

Following a dramatic appeal for justice and the elimination of abuses in Fire Department promotions, the City Council took issue with Chief J. J. Benner's policy and sided with the firemen.

While Councilmen Blount and Mervin Schwab declined to vote, Mayor Albert Isen and Councilmen Nick Drile and Victor Benstead went on record expressing their "wishes" to see Engineers M. T. Langum and B. C. Sionecker promoted to captain.

The two men, though among the top three on the eligible list, have been by-passed seven and five times, respectively, it was pointed out last week.

The meeting of the council was adjourned until 5:30 Thursday for a meeting with the chief and possible action on promotional issues and policies.

Asked to present the reasons in writing why the two men had been by-passed, Chief Benner indicated in a letter that Sionecker showed a "reluctance to willingly perform routine orders" and that Langum "shows a great difficulty and hesitancy in attempting to express himself."

Langum, speaking with eloquent conviction, gave voice to the allegedly long-simmering grievance of Torrance firemen.

"I'm representing practically (Turn to Page 6)



BRIGHTER FUTURE... Visiting a tiny patient at the Sister Kenny Memorial hospital are Mrs. Fred E. Smith (right), recently appointed volunteer Torrance chairman for Sister Kenny Foundation's May fund raising campaign, and her mother, Mrs. Etha Smith who will assist on the campaign.—Stanart Photo.

Vice-President Of U. S. Chamber To Speak Here

Henry Kearns, vice-president of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States will be guest speaker at the Chamber of Commerce's annual banquet and installation of new officers and directors on Tuesday night, February 28, John A. Ebbinghouse, president announced today.

Kearns was president of the U. S. Junior Chamber of Commerce 1945-46 and was chosen California's "Most Useful Citizen, 1944." He is a past director of the Tournament of Roses association.

He was elected a director of the U. S. Chamber of Commerce in 1947 and has been reelected for each term since then.

He was named vice-president of the Chamber of Commerce of the U. S. in 1955.

Reservations are now being taken at the Chamber office for the banquet. Some service clubs and business firms are reserving entire tables of 10. Reservations are available in numbers from one person upwards, according to Banquet Chairman R. S. Pyle.

Entertainment will consist of dinner music by a string ensemble which was secured by King Williams who is in charge of that phase of the program.

Past-president Paul D. Lorange will give a brief annual report, and also announce the recipient of the Laughon-Whyte Memorial "Citizen of the Year" award.

Dr. Gerald M. Eastham, member of the board of directors of the Chamber and past vice-president will be master of ceremonies at this annual affair. The dinner this year will be served at the tables and will include prime roast beef, Pyle said.

Dominguez Channel Under Study

Immediate steps as well as long range planning to increase the capacity of Dominguez channel to handle flood waters was urged on the board of county supervisors this week by Supervisors Kenneth Hahn and Burton W. Chace.

"Debris of all kinds which has been allowed to accumulate in the channel should be cleaned out immediately," Supervisor Hahn declared. "This is something that can be done now and would greatly improve the channel's ability to carry water should we have another storm," he continued.

The channel has accumulated a great amount of trash and debris between Rosecrans avenue and Vermont avenue which should be cleaned out immediately.

Planning should begin immediately on permanent widening, development and paving of the channel so that it will be able to protect Lawndale and North Torrance in the event of another major storm.

Supervisor Hahn pointed out that storm waters from several of the bond issue storm drains are now being emptied into the channel and that additional water will be carried to the drain with the competition of the Normandie avenue drain, now (Turn to Page 6)



HENRY KEARNS U. S. Chamber vice-president

Man Charged With False Police Report

Charged with making a false police report, Lloyd A. Merry, 47, of South Gate must appear for a hearing in South Bay Municipal Court February 17.

Merry, who told of having been kidnapped and robbed by two men in Torrance, allegedly admitted that his story was "just a lot of malarkey," according to Det. Capt. Ernie Ashton.

Merry told officers a detailed story of having been accosted at knife-point by two men who forced their way into his car at 190th street and Crenshaw boulevard.

He claimed they took him to isolated locations near Torrance, and at Downey, where they took his money from him.

Although Merry assertedly admitted making up the yarn as an excuse to his wife for coming home late, Ashton said he refused to account for the hours during which he allegedly was in the hands of the "bandits."

Merry was freed on \$250 bail pending court hearings on the misdemeanor charge.

Manslaughter Charge Issued

Robert McNeil, 36, of Inglewood, was arraigned on a manslaughter charge in South Bay Municipal court Tuesday in connection with the recent death of a Lawndale man following a car accident which occurred here on January 19, according to Torrance detectives.

Cars driven by McNeil and Joseph M. Libby, 44, of Hawthorne collided at the intersection of Crenshaw boulevard and 182nd street in Torrance the night of January 19.

Hobson Denmark, 57, a passenger in the Libby car, died last Sunday in a Los Angeles hospital from injuries sustained in the wreck.

CHARGED WITH WIFE BEATING

A Torrance man admitted this week beating his wife, but denied stabbing her with a knife.

Ordered to appear in South Bay Municipal Court on a felony wife beating charge and assault to do great bodily harm is Connie Mack Dalrymple of 2013 West 178th street, according to Torrance detectives.

Dalrymple told officers that he works the late shift at a local machine company and that he had arrived home early Saturday morning.

He and his wife, Jimmie, began to argue and he began to beat her, according to detectives.

When taken away by police, Dalrymple smashed a window in a police car and Officer Buck Ingram suffered injuries while scuffling with him.

Mrs. Dalrymple was taken to Harbor General hospital by Wright's ambulance.

Authorities said Dalrymple expressed regret over the attack. His wife reportedly was pregnant, according to officials.

Break Ground On South Bay Bowling Alley

Ground was broken for the South Bay Bowling center, 174th street and Hawthorne avenue, Monday.

The center will cover 58,000 square feet and will contain 54 lanes, the largest fully automatic pin setting alleys in the world.

A restaurant and cocktail lounge will seat more than 200 persons. Nursery facilities will be provided for "bowling mothers."

Architects for the undertaking are Victor Gruen, A. Q. Jones, Frederick Emmons, associated architects, while contractor is McDonald Brothers.

The bowling center will be part of the greater South Bay Shopping Center covering 50 acres with a total building area of 605,000 square feet. Parking for more than 4000 cars will be provided.

There will be 35 stores with the following major tenants now under lease: May company, 340,000 square feet; Newberry's, 40,000 square feet; Ralphs, 39,000 square feet; Thrift's, 19,000 square feet; and Bank of America, 9000 square feet.

Architects are the same as (Turn to Page 6)

2-Year-Old Boy Killed by Car

A little child died several hours after he was crushed under the wheels of a neighbor woman's car Tuesday.

Dead one day after his second birthday is Arthur D. Kinane jr., of 4713 W. 191st st. who was run over by a car driven by Mrs. Pearl Gilbert, 48, of 4752 W. 191st st. it was reported.

The woman told officers she looked carefully before backing her car out of the driveway of her home, but apparently failed to see the lad playing on the sidewalk.

Funeral arrangements are pending at the Hardin and Flanagan Mortuary in Hawthorne. The boy is the city's fourth traffic fatality of 1956.

Contenders For Election Total Four

There are now four contenders who have filed petitions for the April 10 election of the City Council. Newest in the running is G. S. (Bill) Evans of 1229 Beech, who filed on Monday, January 6.

Deadline for the filing of petitions is noon on Thursday, February 16.

The three other men who have filed are: James E. Thompson, 2031 Gramercy ave.; Walter G. Ryan, 1513 Marcelina; and Nicholas Drale, 3431 West 171st st.

The city clerk's office reported that other petitions have been taken out, but it is not clear (Turn to Page 6)

City Fights Attempted Annulment

All the resources of the city will be mobilized to fight an attempt by Dominguez Water Co. to annul agreements with the city for water service to the Kauffman housing development, west of Hawthorne ave., and south of 190th st., George Stevens, City Manager, announced.

Stevens and James Hall, City Attorney, are preparing to defend the city's rights in the matter before the Public Utilities Commission. This course of action is in accord with the desires of the City Council.

Dominguez Water Co. has presented a petition to the PUC for the annulment of the agreement made with the city two (Turn to Page 6)

SIX YEAR LABOR PACT SIGNED

In a move toward stabilizing the mercantile industry's labor-management relations in the Harbor Area of Los Angeles County, a six-year no-reopening labor pact has been agreed to by members of Retail Clerks Local 905, A.F.L.-C.I.O. and the Harbor Area Employers' Council, representing the employers involved, it was announced jointly by Ben N. Scott, secretary-treasurer of the local union, and Frank S. Selover, executive secretary of the Employer's Council.

A wage increase of 5c per hour was agreed upon, but the contract will remain in full force, without change, until February 3, 1962. Scott and Selover said, except that wages may be adjusted annually in proportion to the cost of living index of the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Statistics.

The agreement covers more than 1,000 employees of 250 retail stores in San Pedro, Torrance, Wilmington, Gardena, Lomita, parts of Compton and South Los Angeles. It is effective February 3, 1956.

"During the past few years, (Turn to Page 6)

BACHELOR APARTMENT OCCUPIED

Here today, gone tomorrow. That's how fast bargains are snapped up when advertised in the Torrance Press classified section.

Mrs. R. H. Rozendal of 1803 Gramercy can testify to that. She placed the following ad in the Torrance Press:

"We had considerable results," she said. "The phone rang continuously, even after we rented it. You may certainly say that I'm really pleased."

BACHELOR APARTMENT—For rent. FA. 8-5417

Why stumble around in the dark? Whether you want to sell, rent, buy, trade or hire—do it by placing an ad in the Torrance Press. Call FA. 8-2345—you'll be glad you did.

Simplified License Plates Help Spot Robbery Suspect

A husband and wife were responsible this week for leading to the arrest of a robbery suspect—and all because the new license plates are so easy to remember.

Mrs. Lafey Stapp of 2619 W. 176th st., was commenting casually to her husband about the simplicity of the new numbers, pointing to a nearby car as an example, while walking near the Bon Marche cleaners, 17508 Crenshaw.

Moments later after the car had left, Mrs. Margaret Esch, clerk at the cleaners, came running out of the house shouting that she had been robbed.

Mrs. Stapp remembered the license number of the car and Torrance and Redondo detectives soon arrested Fred R. Lanciotti, 26, of 5034 Ladeene st., Torrance on suspicion of robbery.

Mrs. Esch reported that a man answering to Lanciotti's description used an automatic pistol to force her to hand over \$40. He was also wanted by Redondo police for a local robbery.

The Los Angeles county coroner's office did not hold an inquest into the death.

Mrs. Sells is asking \$100,000 for the loss of future earnings, and an equal amount for the loss of her husband. She is also asking \$1000 for the car and \$3000 for miscellaneous expenses.

No hearing has been set on the action.

Man Drowns In Slough

Thrown from his outboard motorboat while making a sharp turn, a 25-year-old man was drowned in Bixby Slough Sunday.

Lifeguards recovered the body of Fred G. Mortenson of 26308 Bellport St. Harbor City.

Witnesses said Mortenson had been giving boat rides to friends and neighborhood children earlier in the afternoon but was alone when he was thrown into the water.

Lifeguard Jerry McCluskey, 27, said he saw Mortenson fall from the boat.

"I swam right out," he said. "I dived until I couldn't dive any more but I couldn't find him." Police said Mortenson's heavy clothing and boots apparently dragged him to the bottom immediately.

His father, Fred C. Mortenson, was waiting on the shore when the lifeguards recovered his son's body.



SOUTH BAY BOWLING CENTER... Ground was broken Monday for the new bowling center located at 174th st. and Hawthorne ave. Seen (l-r) are Robert H. Alder, general manager, South Bay Shopping Center; Mayor Albert Isen, Torrance; Sidney F. Brody, presi-

dent, Brody Investment Co.; William Czulegar, mayor pro-tem, Redondo; Richard Fitzgerald, manager, Redondo Beach Chamber of Commerce; and Pete Spiros, manager, South Bay Bowling Center.