

TORRANCE SUSPECT ARRESTED IN RAPE, KIDNAPING AND SLASHING OF HOUSEWIFE

A Torrance man, charged with the rape, kidnaping, and assault with a deadly weapon of a Puente mother of three children, was arrested here by Torrance police last week.

Arrested here on a warrant from San Bernardino county was a plumber, Raymond Romberg, 32, of 20011 Anza, Torrance, who is married and the father of a number of children, according to Det. Capt. Ernie Ashton.

The victim, Mrs. Ila McBride of Puente, California, a mother of three children, charged that she was kidnaped, raped, and slashed around the face and groin

with a broken pop bottle by Romberg before she was abandoned on a lonely country road.

While Romberg allegedly admitted attempting intimacies with the victim, he denied trying to rape, kidnap, or assault her with a deadly weapon, according to Ashton.

The victim stated that she knew Romberg because he had worked as a plumber in the housing project into which she and her family moved.

Uses Ruse

The suspect allegedly got Mrs. McBride out of the house through an ingenious ruse, according to Ashton. First he sent a telegram reading: "We will be at the

railroad depot in Pomona at 11:35 a.m. Meet us. Ben and Mickey."

Both Mrs. McBride and Romberg know a Ben and Mickey in Las Vegas, and Romberg admitted as much.

Knowing that telegrams are delivered by taxi, the suspect allegedly waited near Mrs. McBride's home until the taxi arrived.

Picks Her Up

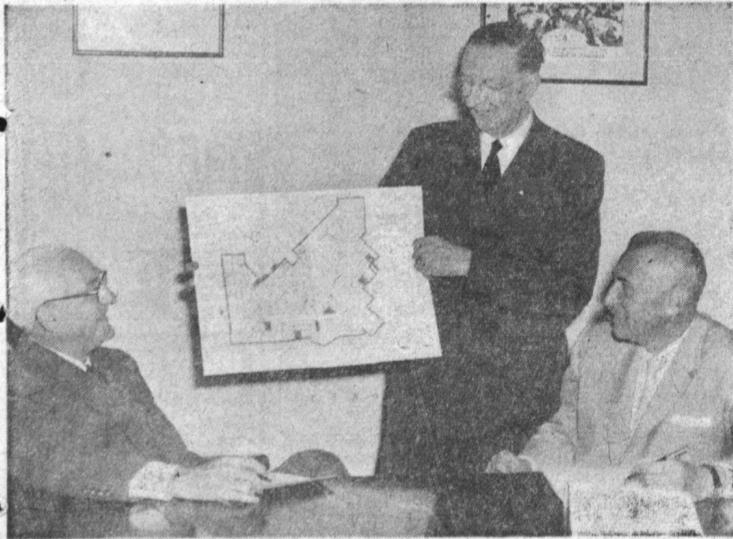
Shortly after, she was on her way to the depot where Romberg picked her up, asking her where she was going and informing her that he, too, was on his way to Pomona. While she went along willingly for the ride to Pomona,

Mrs. McBride stated that she was taken instead to a back country road in San Bernardino where she was assertedly raped and slashed with a broken pop bottle, according to Ashton.

Romberg did admit leaving her there, the detective said.

Seconds later, two water company employees happened upon the scene and saw the woman standing near the road, bleeding profusely.

They picked her up and took her to San Bernardino. Romberg is being held in San Bernardino. His bail was set at \$5000.



MORE OFF-STREET PARKING IN SIGHT DOWNTOWN
First to sign petitions for off-street parking district are Sam Levy (l) and George Binder, major property owners. Dean Sears, parking chairman, looks on.

Off-Street Parking Petitions Circulating

Torrance, the Chamber of Commerce, and downtown property owners stepped ahead with seven league boots this week with the circulation of petitions for a parking assessment district to provide more parking in downtown Torrance.

The \$260,000 bond issue will be authorized once signatures of property owners owning 51 percent of the assessed valuation of the district have been obtained.

There are about 150 individuals owning property in downtown Torrance.

The money will be used to buy and improve off-street parking lots in the downtown area.

Designated for purchase are 18 lots totaling 92,000 square feet in area, according to Dean Sears, chairman of the Chamber parking committee.

This would provide enough parking for 400 more cars in downtown Torrance.

First to sign the petitions were Sam Levy and George Binder, major property owners and guiding spirits in the formation of the proposed assessment district.

The \$260,000 bond issue would be paid by downtown property owners and through money from parking meters. It has been estimated that present parking meters would pay off 60 percent of the bonds.

80 Corvettes Arrive Here

Eighty new 1956 Corvettes, largest trainload ever shipped, arrived here yesterday by Southern Pacific at the downtown Torrance depot.

Every Los Angeles Chevrolet dealer will receive one of the new models. On hand to watch the unloading was Paul Loranger, newly elected president of the Chevrolet Dealers association of Los Angeles and Orange county.

Loranger, who owns Paul's Chevrolet, 1640 Cabrillo, will have one of the new models in his showroom.

HEART SUNDAY NETS \$3,504

Torrance Residents Open Hearts And Pocket Books
Sunday's community-wide door to door collection in behalf of the 1956 Heart Fund produced a total of \$3504.12 is was announced today by Dr. J. H. Hull, 1956 Heart Fund chairman.

Malcolm Richland, Heart Sunday chairman, stated that this amount exceeded last year's Sunday collection by over \$2500.

Totals by districts, naming chairmen, were given as follows:
South—Hillside, Mrs. W. E. Inman, \$175.59; Waverly, Mrs. George Powell, \$131.70; Riviera, Mrs. J. M. Ogborn, \$407.66; Newton, Mrs. Donald Hauser, \$489.55; Meadow park, Mrs. J. Scott, \$130.05; Seaside, Mrs. E. Wudske, \$255.83;

Central—Fern—Greenwood, Mrs. G. F. McLaren, \$190.56; Torrance, Mrs. Frederick Harman, \$214.98; Madrona, Mrs. N. H. Burrows, \$312.85; Wood, Mrs. William Dickson, \$232.25;
North, headed by Mrs. Pat Even-Carr, Mrs. Perkins, \$280.33; Perry, Mrs. Phillips, \$238.18; Steele, Mrs. B. Mann, \$68.18; El Nido, Mrs. Le Francois, \$71.43; North Torrance, Mrs. M. Van Deventer, \$352.23; and Crenshaw, Mrs. W. H. Brinkley, \$137.75.

Richland appealed to those who were not at home when their Heart Fund volunteer called Sunday afternoon to use the self-addressed envelope, left behind by the volunteer neighbor, to mail in their Heart Fund gift.

"Our special thanks go out to the almost 700 public-spirited

For the past month Solomon (Turn to Page 14)

TORRANCE PRESS

10¢

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1 ■ 2 ■ THURSDAY, MARCH 1, 1956 — TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA

NO. 46

Council See-Saws Back To Former Meeting Time

Torrance councilmen, possibly all a-dither over coming elections, did a quicky switch Tuesday night when they voted to go back to the old meeting hours at the request of the Waverly Civic association.

Motion to go back to the 8 p.m. meetings every second and fourth Tuesday and 5:30 p.m. meetings the other Tuesdays was made by Councilman Nick Drale and quickly seconded by Councilman Willys Blount. They were joined by Councilmen Victor Benstead and Mervin Schwab. Mayor Albert Isen voted "no" "on principle."

Only a few months ago the council voted to hold their weekly meetings at 5:30 p.m. every week.

The Waverly civic organization maintained that 5:30 is a very inconvenient time, making it impossible for the working man to attend council meetings. The set-up was labeled "undemocratic."

Benstead stated that he does not go along with the idea that this was "undemocratic." He said other cities have afternoon or daytime council meetings. "But if the people so desire, I'll go along with them," he concluded.

Mayor Isen fought a losing battle when he asserted that he had heard only complimentary (Turn to Page 13)

Woman Killed While Going To Church

The serenity of a Sunday was shattered this week when a woman was killed by a car while walking to church.

Dead is Mrs. Jessie O. Osborne, 69, of San Pedro, who was struck at 223rd and Western avenue while crossing the street.

Driver of the car was Henry W. Sellers, 20, of Downey. He was not held.

Mrs. Osborne was the mother of Jim Osborne, local realtor; Wally H. Osborne of San Leandro, Calif.; and Lloyd M. Osborne, of Burbank.

Mrs. Osborne will lie in state at Halverson-Levell mortuary, corner Cravens and Engracia, with funeral services to be held today, Thursday, at noon at Forest Lawn.

Mrs. Osborne was born in Green Valley, Illinois, and came to California about 35 years ago. She lived in this area for 15 to 20 years.

She was well-known for her philanthropic activities, including church work, charity drives, and activities on behalf of rest homes.

In addition to her children she leaves behind nine grandchildren; a brother, Edison Crosby of Pasadena; and a sister, Mrs. Fanny Crosby of Pasadena.

—Harrison Photo

SAY WHEN AND WE'LL STOP...

When people cancel out ads in the Torrance Press they do it because the results are just overwhelming!

Mrs. Walter Reed, manager of Jo-Sandra Courts, 1458 1/2 W. 220th st., canceled her ad after one running, although she had planned to run it four times. It read as follows:

JO-SANDRA COURTS
Modern three rooms. Furnace, oak floors, shower over tub, \$57.50 and up including garage. Manager at 1458 1/2 W. 220th St. Phone: FA. 8-1367

"I'm not exaggerating," she beamed. "We get more results from the Torrance Press than from any other two papers that we have ever used."

"From now on I am advertising only in the Torrance Press," she continued. "Our results are phenomenal! The office thinks I'm a whiz at keeping the courts rented, when it's not me at all but the Torrance Press that does all the work!"

"All I have to do is to put the ad in the Torrance Press and sit back and... before night, it's rented."

Need we say more? Call FA. 8-2345 for similar results—renting, selling, trading, or hiring.

Dean L. Sears Named 1955 'Man of the Year'

The hundreds of members and guests at the annual banquet of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce rose to give a standing ovation to Dean L. Sears, named the "Outstanding Citizen of the Year."

The announcement came as a climax to the weeks of search for the person worthy of the award which is made annually by the Chamber of Commerce.

Nominations for candidates were made by letter to the Chamber. In a letter nominating Dean Sears, Otto Kresse wrote:

"In most communities you will find a few individuals who without fanfare give much of themselves and their time in helping organize, perform and accomplish those many civic activities so essential to the healthy growth of a town or city. I have in mind such an individual who for the past twenty-five years has never been without two or three such assignments to be working on. . . I herewith present to you the name of Dean L. Sears for the name of 'Man of the Year' for 1955."



THEY WON'T BE SMILING LONG
There's dirty work afoot in the plot of "Lily, the Felon's Daughter," old time melodrama, to be presented for the YMCA benefit show, Saturday, March 3, at the Torrance high school auditorium, at 8 p.m. The cast of the ACCENT: Theatre! production is: (standing l-r) Paul Matthews, Charles Hackbusch, Jean Grimes, and Margaret Anderson. Seated is Loretta Lohr. For story see page 3.

Quiet Civic Devotion
A letter received from Dr. Alden W. Smith, nominating Sears, said:

"Mr. Sears is known by those close to him as man who having accepted assignment to civic duty, quietly devotes his (Turn to Page 14)

Future Looks Great For 1956 YMCA Program

The success of the 1956 YMCA fund drive was forecast by Sam Levy, general chairman, as he viewed the totals reported by noon yesterday, February 29.

By noon \$16,605 had been collected toward the goal of \$17,000. Workers were still canvassing and Levy said that he was completely confident that

the total would be reached in time for the Victory Dinner, scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Wednesday evening.

The total goal was split up among the four general committees. Noon reports showed: the industrial committee with \$9535 toward a goal of \$10,000; the professional committee with \$2697 toward a goal of \$3000; the commercial committee with \$3273 on a goal of \$3000; and the field organization with \$1100 on a goal of \$1000.

This is the most enthusiastic YMCA campaign yet, Levy said. After years of deficit operation, he said he was confident that this year the "Y" would be able to operate in a condition befitting the service which it is called upon to give to the entire south bay area.

Any funds over the goal for basic operating expenses will go for the much hoped for improvements of the "y" building and premises, Levy said.

Wild West Burglar Takes Togs

Somebody with a yen for western togs helped himself to about \$697 worth at the Lazy K Western shop sometime between Monday night and Tuesday morning.

The suspect or suspects broke in the front door and helped himself to ladies', men's, and children's clothing, ignoring some valuable equestrian equipment, according to Sgt. Bill Hess of Lennox sheriff's station.

Owner of the store is Kathy Walters who discovered the theft.

Doctor Hurt In Car Crash

A sports-model automobile turned over end in Ocean-side Sunday night, injuring the driver, Dr. C. E. Easley, 40, of 2055 Torrance Blvd., and a passenger, Norma R. Leedy, 34, of 1305 Florwood, Torrance, according to highway patrol.

The seriously injured pair was taken to Oceanside hospital. Dr. Easley was reportedly transferred to Torrance from there.

Residents Express Views On Delinquency At Town Meeting

Torrance residents sounded off loud, orderly, and intelligently on juvenile delinquency Monday night at an old-fashioned town meeting attended by about 100 individuals.

A typical cross section of opinions was presented by individuals from all walks of life and all ages, including teenagers.

The meeting was called by Mayor Albert Isen at the request of Governor Goodwin Knight. The event was one of numerous similar events held in other communities throughout the State for the purpose of compiling information on the cause and cure of delinquency.

The ideas will now be gathered into a comprehensive report by the governor.

First to speak Monday night was R. F. Evans, salesman. He suggested that writing essays anywhere from 5000 to 50,000 words instead of fines or imprisonment has actually proven to be a very effective form of correction in juvenile crimes, as well as some adult crimes.

He proposed the adoption locally of such form of correction.

Family Relations Court

Frank Burk, furniture salesman, proposed the establishment of a family relations court for a more realistic handling of divorce cases. Such a court or committee, Burk said, would investigate the fitness of the father or mother to determine custody of the children rather than following the standard policy of awarding custody to the mother.

Burk also called for the establishment of a teenage center.

Bob Jahn, contractor, said that he does not think that Torrance is faced with a large delinquency problem. He asked parents to pay more attention to their children.

A number of speakers indicated the importance of organizations such as the Boy Scouts, flying associations, (Turn to Page 13)



TEENAGER SPEAKS AT TOWN MEETING
Miss Ariane Lesar . . . to whom do teenagers belong? —Press Photo

COUNCIL BRIEFS

VICTOR ANNEXATION: The hearing was continued one week to enable the city attorney to report on additional protests. Hearing will be March 6 at 5:30 p.m.

FLIES: George Powell has been instructed to take whatever action necessary to get the Grant Construction company to clean up the fly problem around Redondo Beach boulevard and Arlington caused by rotting caulked floors.

TRASH CANS: Councilman Nick Drale moved that the city place trash cans in Waverly and North Torrance. The council approved.

CITY HISTORY: Councilman Drale proposed the establishment of a committee which would draft a comprehensive report on how Torrance set up its own government and school district. Appointed to the committee were Frank S. Selover, C. T. Rippy, A. H. Bartlett, and Mervin Schwab, chairman.