



SUICIDE ATTEMPT FOILED

William Oelke, 26, is being restrained by police and fire officers Sunday after an unsuccessful suicide try at the Torrance Hotel. Oelke required both leg shackles and handcuffs to subdue him. Police Sergeant Robert C. Wright (right) was instrumental in urging Oelke not to jump.—Photo Arts Photo

Man Tries To Commit Suicide

Several hundred people watched a dramatic roof top struggle here Sunday as police and firemen halted William Oelke, 26, from committing suicide at the Torrance Hotel, 1646 Cabrillo ave.

Police sergeant Robert C. Wright was called to the scene where he goaded Oelke into a fight until he was taken from the 2-story building by firemen with a net and ladder truck.

Police found a suicide note and an empty wine bottle in the victim's hotel room. He was held on charges of disturbing the peace and intoxication.

PLANNER LOSES \$700 IN HOLDUP

"Don't raise up, don't turn around, just hand me the money," was the order given Torrance Planning Commissioner Dave Figueredo, who was forced to surrender \$700 as he was opening his service station Monday.

Figueredo was stooping down to open the floor safe at his station, 2500 Torrance Blvd., 7 a.m., when an unknown gunman poked a gun in his back and demanded the money. Without turning around, he handed the bandit the money who fled the scene before he could be identified.

'WOMEN OF THE YEAR' SEARCH ENDS MAY 15

There is still time to enter a candidate in the first annual "Women of the Year" contest sponsored by the Torrance Press. Deadline for receiving letters of recommendations describing your candidate is May 15, 5 p.m. Five separate awards will be made in each of the following fields: Civic and Cultural, Social and Philanthropic, PTA, Business and Professional, and Church. For details, turn to page 30.

Businessmen Install Matthews President

Donald J. Matthews, general building contractor in Torrance, was installed president of the Waleria Businessmen's club May 2 at Nickle's Ranch. He replaces out-going president Robert Waegner.

Other officers installed were: Herb Jackson, vice-president; John Iwata, treasurer; Dave Tanner, secretary; and Ernest Thriss, Dr. Wilmet Labit and Fred Kita, directors.

Matthews has been a resident of the South Bay area since 1933 and a resident of Torrance since 1946. He joined the Businessmen's club 3 1/2 years ago under the sponsorship of Jack Brown, junior past president at that time. He has served on the board and last year was elected vice-president of the or-



DON MATTHEWS
... Takes Gavel

Lomita Group Files Incorporation Petition

Members of the United Lomita group raced against time Wednesday, May 1, to file signed petitions with the County Board of Supervisors asking incorporation for Lomita. Deadline for filing the petitions was set at 5:30 p.m. with County Clerk Gordon Nesvig. They reached him with only seconds to spare.

Linden Chandler, chairman of the ULG, estimated that 950 valid signatures had been obtained from property owners in Lomita which he feels confident represents the required 25 per cent. However the county assessor must review the petitions to determine if they are in good order by June 6. Then the Board of Supervisors will set a date for a public boundary hearing on the matter, provided there is no objection to the proposed incorporation.

Chandler feels that if "all goes well" (Turn to Page 29)

GP OFFERS 5 PER CENT PAY HIKE

General Petroleum Corporation has announced a 5 per cent increase in base rate of pay for all employees not represented by authorized bargaining agents. The increase is effective as of April 1, 1957.

R. L. Minckler, president of the oil company, further announced that the company's vacation plan is improved to provide 4 weeks annual vacation beginning in the calendar year in which any employee completes 20 years of accumulated service. Previously 25 years of service were required to make an employee eligible for 4 weeks vacation.

The number of recognized company holidays will be increased from 7 to 8, and, in the future, employees who normally receive premium pay for working overtime will receive time and one-half pay for scheduled hours worked on holidays, plus a day's pay, Minckler added.

The bargaining representatives of organized employees are being offered the same adjustments, according to the company announcement.

'CITIZEN' DEADLINE MAY 23

Entries must be postmarked by midnight, Monday, May 13 to be eligible for consideration in the guest to determine who was Torrance's "Distinguished Citizen" in 1956, it was announced today by Chairman Mervin Schwab.

Although over 500 nomination blanks have been mailed to all organizations and companies in Torrance, additional blanks may be secured at the Chamber of Commerce office, 1345 El Prado.

The award will be presented by the 1955 winner, Dean L. Sears, local Bank of America Manager, as a highlight of the Chamber's Annual Banquet on (Turn to Page 29)

DOG TRAINING CLASSES TO BEGIN HERE MAY 18

"A dog worth feeding is a dog worth training," so states Mrs. Marty Lehr, well-known obedience trainer in the southern communities.

As a result of City Council action on April 30, the Southwest Dog Obedience club of Los Angeles county inc., will start training classes May 18 in the Civic Center area.

Mrs. Lehr will conduct the 9-week course climaxed by a graduation of both the dog and handler.

Everyone with a dog, regardless of breed or pedigree, is invited and encouraged to participate. Boys and girls, 12 years of age and over, especially have been asked to attend and make a buddy of their dog instead of a "neighborhood nuisance."

Registration for the junior class will be at 3:30 p.m. on May 18 and the new novice dog training class starts at 2 p.m. Registration fees collected from the junior class will be sent to Guide Dogs for the Blind, San Rafael. The nine-week training course includes:

1. Heel on leash
2. Automatic sit
3. Free heel
4. Stand for examinations
5. Figure eight
6. Recall
7. Long sit
8. Long down
9. Graduation

The course is designed to not only teach the dogs to get along with other dogs but build character and pride for dog and handler. Trophies will be awarded upon graduation and awards to the his-scoring junior handler in both junior and novice class will be made.

Certificates Dogs are awarded graduation certificates on a point system—200 points being a perfect score. For further information, those interested can contact Mrs. Lehr at FA 8-8461.

LOCAL AUTO DEALERS BLAST CITY COUNCIL



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TEN CENTS NO. 5

City Council Approves Longren Aircraft Plan

At long last Longren Aircraft corp. submitted a detailed report to the City Council describing what improvements to the property have been made and what accomplishments will be made to comply with the variance.

It was moved by councilman Robert Jahn that the letter from Hampden Worth, president of the corporation, be made a matter of record and that a progress report be made to the council after each deadline for improvement is met. Councilman Willys Blount added that the motion was not a "waiver of any previous requirements."

Parking, noise, and beautification have been the three areas considered for improvement and have been the center of controversy for many years by residents in the vicinity of the plant located at 2576 W. Carson st. As stated in the letter to the council the following things have already been done to alleviate the parking problem:

1. Employment has been reduced at the Carson st. plant.
2. 75 percent of the trucks are now rerouted to the Crenshaw plant and shipping and receiving activity has been moved and consolidated to the airport.
3. Suppliers have been informed about the new routes for delivery.
4. Executive and general offices have been moved to the airport site.
5. A parking lot has been leased on the corner of Carson and Crenshaw.

As far as the noise emanating from the plant is concerned, a number of improvements have already been made to cut down on the disturbances:

1. All assembly operations have been moved to the Crenshaw plant.
2. 85 percent of the noisy equipment has been moved into the concrete tilt-up building on Carson st.
3. Loudspeakers have been cut off.
4. Large signs have been posted advising trucks not to use their horns.
5. Instructions have been issued to the night superintendent to keep noisy opera-

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BIDDING PROCEDURE DESCRIBED 'UNFAIR'

None of the Council members or City Manager wanted to be put on the spot Tuesday night and as a result all bids for city trucks were rejected.

Two weeks ago bids were submitted by Oscar Maples, Paul's Chevrolet, Bacon Ford in Hermosa, and other South Bay dealers to supply the city with 3 one-half ton pickups and 2 one and one-half ton trucks. An out-of-town dealer underbid on all trucks, but considering the sales tax, Oscar Maples was the low-bidder.

In fact it had been recommended by George Stevens, city manager, that Oscar Maples be awarded the bid on all five trucks since they under bid Paul's Chevrolet. However, the council noted that on the two 1 1/2-ton trucks Paul's Chevrolet bid only \$4 more than Maples and it might be fairer to split the bid between the two. As a result, the issue was tabled until this week.

At the council Tuesday night representatives from both Paul's Chevrolet and Oscar Maples were present while the council tried to determine how the bids should be awarded.

"We are at a loss to understand why there is any question as to awarding the complete bid to Oscar Maples, Inc.," a letter dated May 1, from the company stated. According to the letter, Maples claim they met the specifications of a class 9 hoist A40 on the larger trucks and that "the hoist submitted by our competition is not even recognized by the American Hoist and Body Engineers as meeting the specifications." Maples could supply a hoist similar to the competitor's bid, if that is what the council wanted, for "\$100 less on each unit."

At this point the council started a discussion on hoists and agreed that they were not familiar enough with them to recommend one over another. Ray Hartman, a representative from the Hoist company that supplies Paul's Chevrolet, tried to explain that his hoists were not inferior and would meet the specifications.

In order to settle the discussion, Councilman Robert Jahn moved that the council stick with the original recommendation and give the bids to Oscar Maples. However, in the discussion that followed, Stevens, not wanting to commit himself, stated that in the past the city bought trucks and hoists separately and then put them together.

With this in mind, the council moved to reject all bids and start all over again.

Velco Miletich, president of Oscar Maples, expressed his sentiments by saying: "According to specifications we were the lowest bidder on all the trucks and on that basis should have been awarded the bid without any controversy."

Paul Loranger of Paul's Chevrolet stated: "The council has been unfair to the two local merchants; the bids could have easily been split between the two dealers. Now the bids have been revealed and the competition is no longer fair."

"I frankly doubt if I will bid again on the trucks," he concluded.



MOTHER HONORED
Mrs. Frank Jarrett, 1634 Arlington, receives a Mother's Day carnation from Newberry's manager J. H. Paget. Mrs. Jarrett will be just one of thousands of mothers who will receive a free carnation from the downtown Torrance merchants. See Page 28 for details.

WARD ELECTED CIVITAN LT. GOV. at CONVENTION



THOMAS WARD
... Lt. Governor

Junior CofC Convention Begins Today

The largest convention in the 30 year history of the California State Junior Chamber of Commerce will begin on Thursday, May 9, when some 3000 delegates arrive in Avalon, Catalina Island, it was announced today by Co-Chairmen Ted Hill and Russ Hiles of Southwest Los Angeles and Culver City, respectively.

The conclave, which will continue until Sunday, May 12, will be hosted by District 12 of the State Jaycees, consisting of 13 chapters in the southwest section of Los Angeles County including Culver City, El Segundo, Gardena, Hawthorne, Hermosa Beach, Inglewood, Manhattan Beach, Redondo Beach, San Pedro, Southwest Los Angeles, Tor-

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Thomas F. Ward, Torrance, was elected Lt. Governor of the California-Arizona district of Civitan International at the district convention May 3, 4, and 5 in Phoenix, Ariz.

Four members of the Torrance Civitan club attended the convention. They were Tom Ward (and wife, Agnes), Ken Christofferson (and wife, Kay), Floyd Miller (and wife, Delta), and incoming club president, M. W. Heimerding. Ward is the outgoing president.

Also at the convention the Torrance club received a large team trophy for placing first place in the bowling tournament.

Ward walked off with another distinction by placing third in the Civitan golf tournament where 25 California and Arizona clubs were represented.

ARMED MAN TAKES KEYS, CURRENCY

Police are looking for an unknown suspect who robbed Ben Kitzman, 343 1/2 E. 19th st., Long Beach, of \$75-80 in currency after the victim picked up the suspect as a "hitch hiker" in his panel truck at the intersection of Sepulveda and Pennsylvania blvds., Friday, May 3.

According to police reports, the alleged "hitch hiker" forced Kitzman, at gun point, to "get moving and empty your pockets." After the victim gave the man his wallet and change he was ordered to stop on the dirt

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North High Coed Wins Contest

Sharon Smith, 15-year-old North High school student, will represent the Torrance Chamber of Commerce in Alondra Park's Annual Friendship Festival "Queen Contest" on May 11, it was announced today by Chairman Walter Garrabrant.

Sharon, whose 125 pounds are well-distributed on a 5' 4 1/2" frame, won the honor as "Miss Torrance C of C over 8 other finalists. She has hazel eyes and golden brown hair and enjoys skating and swimming.

Judges in addition to Garrabrant, a Hollywood-Riviera contractor, were advertising Executive John Popovich and Neil Campbell, owner of the Torrance Credit bureau.



BEAUTY QUEEN
The title of "Miss Torrance Chamber of Commerce" was won by Miss Sharon Smith, 15-year-old North High school student. She will represent the Torrance Chamber of Commerce in Alondra Park's Annual Friendship festival.