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SCHOOL DISCIPLINE PROBLEM BLASTED

Three Nabbed After Gang Attack

Brawl in Parking Lot Told

Claims by a man and woman that they were jumped by a gang of 10 youths on a parking lot and followed to a service station in downtown Torrance, were under police investigation today.

Three teen-agers were booked on suspicion of assault, while the alleged victims were given emergency treatment at a medical center.

Richard William Covey, 26, of 26 W. 164th st., Lawndale, said he and his companion, Lois Simpson, same address, were beaten and kicked by a number of youths following an argument in the parking lot of the Bowl-O-Drome, 220th st. and Western ave., Tuesday night.

Knocked Down
Covey said that the argument started when he claimed some youths walked slowly in front of his sports car.

When he stopped the auto and got out, he told police, he was jumped from behind and knocked down and kicked in the face. Mrs. Simpson also reportedly suffered a facial cut during the brawl, but her daughter, Patsy Lee Jackson, 16, was not injured.

Covey said that he then drove to a service station at Cabrillo and Carson sts. to wash up, but that a car containing three youths followed him into the station.

Call Police
One of the attendants called police.

Arrested on suspicion of assault were Robert K. Staub, 19, of 1517 W. 261st st., Terry Fuelle, 18, of 219 W. 248th st., Lomita, and Tony Gomez, 19, of 2257 W. 235th st.

Another witness, however, claimed that Covey started the fight after words were passed between himself and one of the youths.

Friendly Staff, Prompt Results Gets Praise

"I had wonderful results, was the happy comment of Mrs. Marie Trippy, of 1628 Plaza del Amo.

She was referring to the results she received from a Torrance Press classified ad in which she sought child care services.

Mrs. Trippy reported that she received 12 applications for the position.

"I always use Torrance Press classified ads. I get such wonderful treatment from the staff, too she said.

If you have something you want to buy, sell or rent, or a special service, call a courteous ad taker at the Torrance Press, FA. 8-2345, for prompt results.

Police Hunt Gang After Safes Found

Torrance police continued their search for safe-cracking ring, after recovering two strong boxes stolen from business firms during the past month.

The safes were found in a flower shed in an oil field at Monterey and Greenwood sts., after investigator received a tip.

One of the safes was stolen several weeks ago from the Farmers Insurance Company, 2520 Torrance blvd., while the other one was taken from the Howard Percy Realty Co., 2222 Torrance blvd., Friday morning under rather humorous circumstances.

Det. Ralph Walker said that the burglary at the real estate office could probably have been foiled quite easily if one of the neighbors had followed his threat and called police.

While two thieves were lugging the 110 pound safe from the building, a resident of a nearby apartment woke up from the noise and questioned the

Burglars Develop New System, Irate Torrance Woman Discovers

Burglars have developed a new wrinkle in their modus operandi, a South Torrance woman informed the Torrance Press.

She said that while she was at the beach, someone jammed the ignition lock on her auto. At first she believed some children had unsuccessfully attempted to steal her car.

When she finally got the lock fixed and returned home, she discovered that her home had been burglarized.

"How slick can they get? Fix it so you can't get home right away, and calmly ransack your house!" she commented.

She advises other motorists who find their ignition jammed and whose registration slip is displayed to dispatch the police to their homes fast and they may catch the burglars in the act.

"Please don't use my name in connection with this—I'd hate to have them come back," she requested.

Censor Group Seeks Backing of Parents

A survey whether Torrance parents favor a stronger ordinance against lewd magazines, which it charges, now are available to youngsters, is being made by a committee investigating these publications. The group, appointed by the City Council last November, also termed its designation as "Self-Censorship Committee" as "unfortunate."

Ask Opinions
A spokesman for the organization, which calls itself "the Committee for Decent Magazines, Movies and Publications," said the parents may submit their views on obscene literature by writing to the committee in care of the Torrance City Hall.

"Findings of the committee have been that questionable material is available to teenagers outside the home, both at the corner news stand and at the theater. Stimulation of immoral ideas through these media is contributing to a moral breakdown, glamorizing unacceptable behavior, thus adding to delinquency, causing much unhappiness and ruining many young lives.

Not Bought
"Our findings indicate that these questionable magazines are not necessarily purchased by the young people, but are being read over a coke or candy bar at the corner news stand.

"We have observed children from the very best families, families whom we are sure are aware of what their children read at home, standing around liquor stores on their way home from school, reading these magazines," the spokesman, who asked not to be named, said.

City Attorney Stanley Remelmeier is currently studying a proposed ordinance, asked by the committee. He is expected to submit his draft of a new law in the near future.

"We know that the parents of our community want high moral standards for their children. We hope that through our efforts this unwholesome situation will be brought to the attention of the community and that they will be desirous in assisting to stamp out this problem," the spokesman said.

Law Day Today

Observation of Law Day was proclaimed for today by Mayor Albert Isen, in honor of courts and laws.



FROGMEN—An invasion of pollywogs has struck portions of Torrance, presumably from water which has been standing in some places since the heavy rain storms. Bruce Wilson, 8, Adam Brown, and John Standings, 9, from left, each have a handful they scooped up at Maricopa and Fonhill aves.

New Cat License Law Seen

An ordinance limiting the number of cats and providing that all felines be licensed, will be drafted by City Attorney Stanley Remelmeier following instruction by the City Council in a narrow vote.

The new law will also bar cats of the non-domestic variety such as ocelots, tigers and others.

Remelmeier proposed that all male and spayed female cats be licensed at a fee of \$2 a year, while female cats will cost a \$4 license fee.

Each family would be restricted to two cats over the age of 10 weeks, and the poundmaster would be instructed to pick up strays on the same basis as dogs.

Mayor Albert Isen ordered Remelmeier to have the ordinance ready for presentation at the May 27 meeting so that opponents could protest at a public hearing.

The new law was opposed by Councilmen Nickolas O. Drale, Willys Blount and George Bradford, who asked to table the matter.

The Council will also act soon on a new law which will require the vaccination of dogs at the age of four months, rather than at six months, as the present law provides. The action will be taken to conform to State law.

Plant Grass
Instead of the spending the money on the plans, the commission announced it wants the cash used to plant grass and sprinklers at some of the city-owned sites where development has been indefinitely postponed because of the defeat of the \$3,000,000 bond issue.

Harry B. Van Bellehem, director of the Recreation Department, said a committee is now studying methods of improving sites with available funds.

In order to assist the probe, the director said he obtained an offer from William Woollett, an architect, for the cost of mapping out a master plan for development.

Six Sites
Present undeveloped park land includes Guenser Park, 7½ acres, Los Arboles, 6½ acres, La Romeira, 5 acres, Paradise 4½, Kaufman Sump, 27 acres, and civic center, 40 acres.

Van Bellehem estimates that current costs for developing each acre is \$20,000, down \$5000 from last year because of lower construction costs.

Benstead Blasts Use of Foreign Steel in New County Building

Use of imported steel in the construction of the new court house in the Torrance civic center was denounced today by Councilman Victor E. Benstead.

"I object to the use of foreign steel at any time as now when our mills are operating at only 50 or 60 per cent of capacity," he declared.

He said he has fired off letters to County Supervisors Burton W. Chace and Kenneth Hahn, protesting use of the foreign material on public buildings at this time.

Benstead said that he has been informed that the contractor for the \$301,000 court building has been using steel which was made in either Japan or Chile.

The councilman said that both management and union officials at the Columbia-Geneva plant of U.S. Steel have objected to the foreign steel.

Benstead said that approximately 200 employees of the plant have been laid off at various times because of the slackened demand for steel.

"The working man pays the taxes for these public buildings, and is hit by the recession which is made worse when foreign steel is used," he charged.

He said he has asked City Attorney Stanley Remelmeier to draw up a resolution of protest, which he expects to submit to the City Council next week.

Seek Federal Funds for Harbor Freeway Speedup

With bids to be awarded soon on the Harbor Freeway section which will bring it to Torrance, pressure is mounting to complete it all the way to Pacific Coast hwy. The Lomita Chamber of Commerce last week approved a resolution requesting that Federal highway funds be obtained to finish the super highway all the way from the harbor to Los Angeles.

R. Kenneth Gibson, secretary-manager of the Lomita organization, said that \$1,800,000,000 in federal money has been appropriated by Congress for highway construction and that part of these funds should be used to speed work on the last remaining section. On the Harbor Freeway.

Call Bids
State Division of Highways officials said that they expect bids on the segment between 124th and 190th sts. will be advertised this month and that if usual procedures are a criterion, that work could start after July 1.

Cost of this 4.9-mile section is estimated at in excess of \$9,000,000.

The Harbor Freeway section between 91st and 124th sts. is expected to be completed by Sept. 15, since it is ahead of schedule.

Complete Freeway
The Lomita Chamber points out that completion of the freeway to Pacific Coast Highway, where it will link up with a section that has been completed to the south, will finish the express road and also provide additional jobs.

Highway officials also said that bids will be called this month on another section of the San Diego Freeway which will eventually link up the Harbor Freeway at 190th and Figueroa sts.

The segment for which bids will be called is between Venice and Jefferson blvds. in Culver City.

Eventually the San Diego Freeway will be constructed south through Inglewood, Hawthorne and Lawndale and cut southeasterly through North Torrance.

Carson Association To Hear Progress Reports on Work

A report on the proposed widening of Sepulveda blvd., between Normandie ave. to Main St., will be submitted to the Carson Civic Betterment Association at its meeting May 6 at the Stephen White Junior High School at 8 p.m.

President Ray R. Wetzel said that a report on a traffic signal at 234th st. and Figueroa st. will also be discussed at the meeting.

Tornado Little League Baseball Season Opens

Tornado Little League baseball season will open officially May 3 at the league field, Carson Bowl, 21011 Henrietta ave., Torrance.

Roy Loyd, manager, announces that the ceremonies will start at noon with a parade to form at 190th and Firmosa, and games to start at 1 p.m.



L.T. D. C. COOK

Cook to Head Parade

L.T. D. C. Cook of the Torrance Police Department will be General Chairman and coordinator of Torrance's Second Annual "Ranchero Days" Parade to be held July 26.

In making the appointment, President O. R. Trueblood of the sponsoring Chamber of Commerce said, "We are indeed fortunate to have such an expert as Lt. Cook handle the Parade again this year. Last year's parade was rated as one of the finest in the Southland and plans call for an even greater one on July 26 due to Lt. Cook's fine reputation with parade people from all over the State."

Lt. Cook has long been active with the Torrance Mounted Police and the Torrance Coordinating Council. He was named as Torrance "Outstanding Young Man" in 1956.

Baker's Furniture Special Section Offers Bargains

Baker's Furniture Store, 1502 Cabrillo, will observe its 10th anniversary with a month-long anniversary sale beginning today and through the month of May.

Outstanding bargains will be offered by the firm during the sales event.

Parking Law Shelved

A new ordinance providing for the number of off-street parking spaces required for new and altered buildings was returned to City Attorney Stanley Remelmeier for clarification.

Councilmen disagreed with several parts of the proposed ordinance which they termed as not specific in some instances and too arbitrary in others.

Hits Book Shortage In Class

Charges that "a state of civil war" exists over discipline in Torrance schools, were hurled today by a former North High School teacher.

He also asserted that the high school English program is deemphasized to such an extent that there are insufficient textbooks available to students.

The claims were made by Robert Lamberton, 29, who was removed from class room work after he objected to double periods in the curriculum.

Now assigned to an administrative section post until his contract expires in June, he said that administrators do not back up teachers in discipline cases.

Few Suspensions
"If a teacher admits he has a discipline problem, he is termed a bad teacher," Lamberton said.

He claims that principals rarely suspend a student, even if he has violated school rules repeatedly.

Lamberton, who has taught here for one-and-one-half years, said that school administrators rarely back up the teacher in a discipline problem.

He said he has heard of a teacher being physically attacked, student smoking and gambling on school grounds. If the matters are called to the attention of administrators, they refuse to take action if the youngsters deny the charges, the teacher said.

He also claimed that the teacher turnover in the district is quite high.

"The students are coddled and even the good students are hard to get under control under this system," he claimed. "If a teacher enforces the rules, he's in a jam."

Lamberton, who said he has the support of several teachers said that many teachers object to the double sessions in which English and social studies are taught.

He claimed that many teachers have no educational background to teach English, and that most of the double period is devoted to history. The double period teacher is also supposed to act as adviser to the students, he said.

Not Enough Books
Lamberton said he was removed from classroom work after he attempted to call a parents' meeting to discuss the double period.

He said that the school library contains only approximately 30 Senior English novels, although there are about 90 students, and that there are insufficient text books for English classes. He said that this prevents making home work assignments.

Lamberton claimed that the average high school students will be two or three years behind in his English training.

He said that it is difficult for the district to hire teachers with an English major in college, because under the double period system, they would teach English only two-fifths of the day, and other subjects the rest of the time.

Lamberton recommended that a citizen group should survey the opinions of high school teachers in such a way so as not to jeopardize their careers.

Murder Hearing Of Nurse Delayed

Preliminary hearing for Mrs. Mary E. Strong, nurse charged with second degree murder and abortion, was continued when a key witness was unable to testify yesterday.

Dr. Howard Kade, autopsy surgeon, who will testify on lab tests, had to give evidence in another court.

Mrs. Strong, 56, of 2215 W. 236th pl., is charged with performing an abortion on Mrs. Priscilla Young, 37, of Wilmington, causing her death March 31.

The defendant has been released on \$5000 bail.

\$200 Cash Stolen

Pierce Venable, who won first place honors in his class during the Mobilgas Economy Run two weeks ago, was less successful when it came to holding on to his wallet.

He said he left his billfold, containing \$200 in a phone booth at Torrance and Crossshaw blvd. When he returned for it later, he informed police, the cash was missing.



FOUND SAFES—Sgt. Bill Mitchell examines two stolen safes which were recovered by Torrance police in an oil field. The strong boxes were stolen from two Torrance business firms. Police are seeking a gang which has been responsible for safe burglaries here.