



# TORRANCE PRESS

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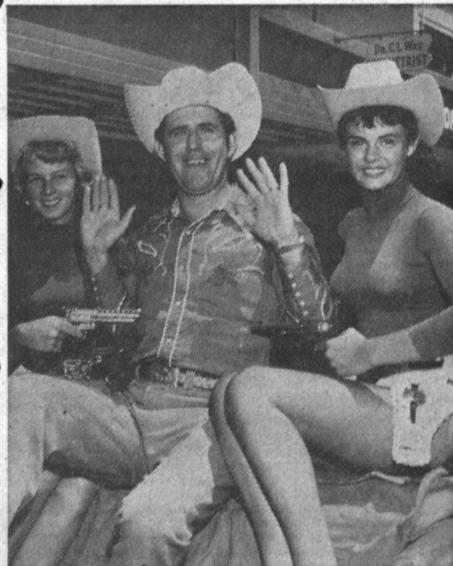
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VOL. X

1 ■ 2 ■

MONDAY, JULY 28

NUMBER 30



**TEXAS JUSTICE**—"Tex" Lee faces the guns of two of his pretty band members, Bobbie Lee, left, and Cherry Lee. The band members were part of the Rancho Days Parade as an entry by Vel's Ford of Torrance. Press Photo



**TRICK RIDER**—Patsy Baker, 9, who has been a trick rider since she was two, demonstrates her horseback skill to Dennis Leeman at the pony ride at the fair grounds. Press Photo



**UP AND DOWN**—Robin Lyn Winter, 22 months, seems to enjoy a ride in the roll-o-plane at the midway. She is being taken by Earl Harrell. Press Photo

## Ex-Nurse Found Guilty Of Murder and Abortion

### Biggest Trial Set For City

Probably the largest trial in the city's history will take place in Torrance Municipal Court Aug. 13, when 31 defendants will be tried for causing a riot in Hermosa Beach last weekend.

All the defendants, composed of "outlaw" motorcyclists and beach dwellers, have demanded jury trials.

Court attaches are busy scrambling around to find sufficient chairs and benches to provide seating for the 31 men and women and a battery of attorneys.

The trial was transferred to Judge Donald Armstrong's Torrance court because there are insufficient facilities in the South Bay Municipal courthouse.

Hordes of quickly recruited policemen from four cities quelled the gang fight which broke out when the motorcyclists attempted to crash a party of Strand residents.

Court attaches privately expressed hope that some of the defendants might change their pleas, since it will strain all available facilities to accommodate defendants, lawyers and jurors.



**COLORFUL PAGEANT**—More than 2000 persons participated in the Rancho Days parade through Torrance Saturday, which included more than 200 units composed of mounted groups,

bands, majorettes, floats and drill teams. Several military units were among the 16 bands entered in the spectacle. Press Photo

### Spectacular Parade Thrills Thousands on March Route

Thousands of spectators thrilled to the colorful Rancho Days Parade which marched, trotted and rolled through downtown Torrance Saturday morning.

Some 2000 persons, comprising 200 units participated in the two- and one-half hour procession from Cabrillo Ave. and Carson St., to the Civic Center.

The parade was the highlight of five fun-filled days of civic celebration which opened Wednesday evening.

Grand Marshal "Butch" Powers, the parade consisted of 16 bands, 28 majorette groups, floats, mounted units, drill teams and motorized equipment.

Proceeding the cars of city officials and their families, was Kathi Kirks, chosen Rodeo Queen.

Organizations from all over Southern California were entered in the parade.

Military bands joined those of civilian organizations while hundreds of girls high-stepped it in majorette units.

Another weekend highlight

### Parakeet Dies in House Fire

A parakeet perished in a North Torrance house fire early Friday, but the lone human occupant of the home managed to crawl out through the thick smoke.

Fire Marshal Robert Lucas estimated damage to the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Blankenship, of 2601 W. 163rd st., at \$2000, and said it started in the living room divan.

Mrs. Maxine Pequano, Mrs. Blankenship's sister, was awakened at 4:45 a.m. by thick smoke. She crawled out of the house after inhaling considerable smoke.

### Cool \$40 Netted in Fast Sale of Her Refrigerator

Mrs. Robert Cecil, of 2214 Cabrillo ave., made a cool \$40 last Sunday when she sold her Kelvinator refrigerator which was advertised in the classified section of last Sunday's Torrance Press.

She said she was very pleased with the prompt results which started off the week right for her.

If you have something to sell, rent or buy, you may take advantage of the help of the Torrance Press trained ad-takers by calling FA 8-2345. They can help you with the copy to obtain fast and satisfactory results.

### Woman Surprises Burglar

A Torrance woman frightened off an armed burglar whom she surprised when she returned home to change her clothes Wednesday afternoon.

Mrs. Doris Hamilton, 28, said that when she went into the bedroom of her house at 22530 Ladeen Ave., she was suddenly seized from behind by a teen-aged youth, who held a knife in one hand.

The victim said that he clamped one arm over her mouth and tried to hold her with the other.

She said she managed to scream and apparently frightened the youth who dashed out the front door. He was last seen fleeing south on Ladeen to 230th St.

Mrs. Hamilton said the burglar, who apparently took nothing, was about 16 or 17 years old and was wearing a tan shirt and blue jeans.

Another burglary in the area was reported by Mrs. Ruth Burge, of 22616 Ellinwood, who said that four rings, one of them worth \$500, were stolen from her bedroom.

The burglar gained entry into the house through a bedroom window.

### Boy Hurt In Fair Accident

Rancho Days turned out to be a painful event for Eddie Nye, 10, who was clobbered in the face with a heavy mallet while attending midway activities in the Civic Center.

The youngster, son of Mrs. Louise Nye, of 2716 El Dorado, reportedly suffered a broken nose and loosened teeth. He was given emergency treatment at Torrance Memorial Hospital.

According to reports, Eddie was waiting for his turn at a concession stand where the object is to test strength by striking a plate with a heavy rubber mallet.

One account had it that the boy was straightening up after picking a coin off the ground, when he was hit in the face by the heavy mallet wielded by another person.

### Home Owners Complain About Water at Probe

Complaints of occasional low water pressure, sand in the water and odors, were voiced by the spokesmen for 30 Torrance residents who testified before the State Public Utilities Commission Thursday.

They were called by the city to support its case against the Dominguez Water Co., which wants to have an agreement to turn its distribution system over to the city in 1963 set aside.

Under the pact between the city and the private water company, the latter will serve residents west of Hawthorne Blvd. and north of Del Amo Blvd., under 1963, at which time it will turn the system over to the municipal water department.

Dominguez claims it was coerced into the 1953 agreement, and wants the commission to set it aside and let the private company continue service of 467 acres within the city.

Speaking for the group which was transported to the hearing

room in Los Angeles by a municipal bus, were Mrs. Thomas Meehan of 19916 Saltee ave., Mrs. Lawrence Mullins, of 4730 W. 191st st., Mrs. E. K. Thatcher, of 4642 W. 191st st., and Jack Ervin, of 4726 W. 191st st.

A commission spokesman said that the case will be submitted Wednesday for a ruling by the commission.

### Calle Mayor Work Slated

Preliminary work toward the extension of Calle Mayor east to Anza Ave. is expected to get under way in the next few weeks, engineering department officials said.

The \$35,000 improvement will provide a major connecting artery to Southwood, and will assist students of Calle Mayor School to get to their classes. The extension is approximately one-quarter mile long.

### Bail of Ex-Nurse Refused

Mrs. Mary Strong, 56, a former nurse, faces a five years to life prison term following her conviction of second degree murder and abortion charges Friday.

A jury in Superior Judge K. Pierson's Long Beach court deliberated for two hours and 30 minutes before finding the Torrance woman guilty of the charges.

Over protests of Defense Atty. Raymond Choate, Mrs. Strong was remanded into custody. She had been at liberty under \$5000 bail.

The defendant was accused of causing the death of Mrs. Priscilla Young, 37, a Wilmington



MARY STRONG

mother of four, through air embolism caused by instrumentation.

Mrs. Strong's hearing on probation and sentencing will be held Aug. 27.

The grey-haired defendant, maintained in her own defense that Mrs. Young came to her home at 2216 W. 236th Place on the evening of March 30 and asked to spend the night there.

Mrs. Young was found dead the following morning on the floor of the spare bedroom.

Dr. Howard Kade, medical examiner for the coroner's office, testified that death was almost instantaneous.

Torrance police arrested Mrs. Strong after an inquest held by the coroner's office.

### Ax Faces Members Of Board

Two Civil Service Commissioners face ouster if the City Council approves an ordinance amendment to cut their terms at Tuesday's meeting.

At the first reading of the ordinance, the changes which will give the council a freer hand in appointing and removing these officials, was approved by a 4 to 1 vote with Councilman George Bradford in opposition. If the ordinance is adopted, George Downey, who has served more than four years, is expected to be fired, while Ross Sclarotta, another member, faces ouster when his term expires in January.

"I have never understood why these terms should be for six years when all other commission terms are for four years," Mayor Albert Isen said.

He replied in response to a question by Bradford that he intends to let the changes apply to the present commission.

The changes also will allow a majority of the council to fire a commissioner, a step that now requires a four-fifth vote.

Another change will allow the mayor to make appointments with the approval of the majority of the council, instead of requiring a four-fifth council vote.

Stevens on Vacation City Manager George Stevens will be on vacation during the first two weeks of August, he announced to the City Council.



**OLD WEST GARB**—Vivonne Potroff in dance hall costume shows her fancy garter to Mary Kelly and Marge McDouglas, waitresses at Archie's Cafe, who were all decked out in costumes in celebration of Rancho Days. Press Photo

### Isen Objects to Torrance Role in Court District

Torrance doesn't want to be hooked to the tail end of Long Beach in the formation of regional Superior Court districts.

That's what Mayor Albert Isen told county officials Thursday night at a meeting at which court district plan was bared.

Under the program, Torrance will be included in the Harbor District which comprises Lakewood, Wilmington, San Pedro, Palos Verdes Peninsula and will be headquartered in Long Beach.

"We want to be in the same district as the South Bay cities with which we have common problems. We don't want to be tied on to the tail end of Long Beach."

"If they're going to put us there, we might as well go to downtown Los Angeles which will be faster once the freeway is in," Isen told the group who met in Inglewood.

The mayor pointed out that Torrance will have a population of 150,000 by 1975 and should be the logical center of the South Bay Court district.

As it now stands, all the South Bay cities would be included in the Inglewood district where court rooms already exist. Gardena would be shunted off to the southeast district, with headquarters in Downey or Compton, Isen said.

### Planners Approve Building

A variance for a medical building at 6210 Pacific Coast Highway was recommended by the Planning Commission in a 4-3 vote in which a "proxy" was cast by an absent commissioner.

The application by Albert Levitt to construct the two-story building and a 30-car parking lot, was opposed by several Hollywood Riviera residents who attended the meeting Wednesday.

They claimed that the structure will conflict with the original plans for the area, create a parking problem and will affect refinancing of homes.

Planning Director George Fowell said that the commission's recommendation will not be submitted to the City Council for final action until Aug. 12 at the earliest.

The variance for the site between Paseo de Las Delicias and Camino de Las Colinas, was approved by President Bert Lynn and Commissioners Larry Wing and John Mulvihill.

Commissioner Thirvin D. Fleetwood, who was absent, had sent his proxy vote in favor of the zone exception.

The proxy was questioned by Mulvihill, but will not be contested since a majority of the present commissioners were in favor of it.

The commission also recommended the rezoning of an area bounded by Maple Ave., Carson St., Monterey St. and Madrona Ave. from industrial to apartment use.