



# TORRANCE PRESS

1406 CRAVENS AVE.—FA 8-2345

10c PER COPY

VOL. XI

1 • 2 •

SUNDAY, JULY 19, 1959

NUMBER 26



**LATIN FLAVOR**—"Senorita" Mary Savage, 10, adjusts sombrero on head of "Senor" Russell Squaders, 8, as they prepare for a Latin-American festival at El Nido Park. Various south-of-the-border events are planned at city parks during Fiesta Days to be celebrated this week under sponsorship of the Recreation Department.

## Third Man Nabbed in Mix-up of Suspects

### Suspects Are Held in Holdup

A robbery plan, carefully plotted on a poker parlor parking lot, backfired on three alleged participants because two of the suspects looked enough alike to pass for twins.

The surprising turn in the investigation of last Sunday's downtown drug store holdup came Thursday evening after two witnesses had positively identified one suspect as the gunman who robbed them, only to learn later that he was the wrong man.

James Cemore, 19, and his wife, Judy, 17, had already identified Stephen Randazzo, 29, an ex-employee of the store as the gunman who robbed them of more than \$2000, during a police show-up Thursday morning.

#### Denies Charge

Randazzo, who together with Harry C. Aartinian, 35, was arrested in Las Vegas Tuesday, denied that he was the stickup man.

Det. Sgt. Don Hamilton, following up some other information, believed that the case might involve mistaken identity, and with Dets. Ralph Walker and Wally Nitz, arrested Ralph Louis Tommarello, 26, in his Fullerton home that evening.

Hamilton said that Tommarello resembles Randazzo close enough to be a brother.

The detective said that investigation disclosed that the three suspects plotted the robbery last Saturday while in a poker parlor parking lot in Gardena. Randazzo, a former assistant manager of the drug store, allegedly briefed Tommarello with the details of the operation.

#### Feared Recognition

Police said that Randazzo did not want to go inside the store because he feared he might be recognized, but apparently did not.

### Soldier Faces Rape Charges

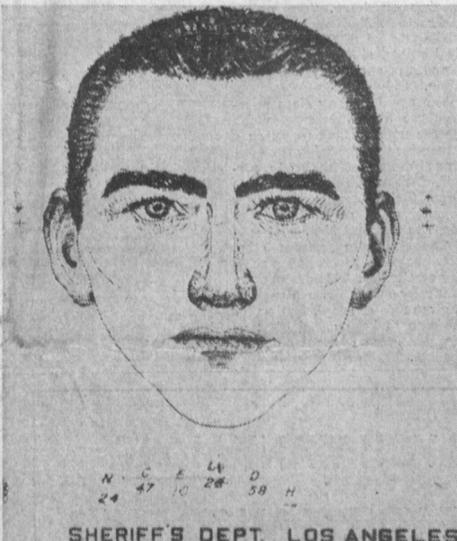
A soldier was flown half way around the world to face statutory rape charges here.

The G.I., Ben Ray Whitley, 23, was brought to Torrance Friday night from Travis Air Force Base where Officers Sam Piazza and Tom Pattishall met the plane which brought him from Korea.

Police said the suspect enlisted in the Army after the attack of a 13-year-old girl who subsequently gave birth to a baby.

Officers had been holding a warrant for Whitley's arrest since April, 1958, and finally managed to have the suspect tracked down through military police.

### WHO'S THE GUNMAN?



**MISTAKEN IDENTITY**—Torrance detectives are the first to admit that so-called "positive identification" could send an innocent person to jail. This is illustrated in the downtown Torrance drug store robbery, when witnesses at first wrongly identified Stephen Randazzo, left, as the gunman. Later investigation, however, revealed that Ralph Louis Tommarello, right, was the stickup suspect. In this case, both men, who resemble each other very closely, were involved in the robbery, according to police. But officers quickly pointed out how easily an innocent person can be wrongly identified. Below is the composite picture of the holdup suspect drawn by sheriff's artists with the help of the witnesses. Notice how closely both suspects resemble the composite picture.

### 'Private Eye' Tells How Suspects Nailed

A business executive who turned amateur detective to track down two of three robbery suspects decided that in spite of his sleuthing ability, he will stay in the drug store business.

Chuck Soens, 32, supervisor for a drug chain whose Torrance store was held up for more than \$2000 Sunday night, said he played a lucky hunch in getting on the trail.

He said that the action of the lone bandit who held up the assistant manager and his wife in the store at 1327 El Prado, indicated to him that he was familiar with the business operation.

Soens said he became suspicious of Stephen Randazzo, 29, who had resigned as assistant manager of the Torrance store about four months ago.

#### Rather Gamble

"I knew that both he, and Harry Aartinian, 35, would rather gamble than eat," the supervisor said.

Both men had worked for him while he was an executive for a market chain.

Soens started on the trail by checking out every Gardena poker parlor, where the pair had been known to be inveterate gamblers.

"That left the race tracks and Las Vegas," he concluded after a fruitless search among the card players.

He and his wife, Vivienne drove up to Las Vegas Monday. Soens said he intended to check out every casino looking for the pair.

But luck was with him. While he and his wife checked into a room at the Stardust Hotel, they decided to look over the casino there as a starter.

#### Playing Cards

As soon as they entered the gambling area, Soens spotted both suspects seated at a blackjack table, stacks of \$5 chips in front of them.

"I got out of there fast before they could see me, and asked a guard to call the sheriff," the amateur sleuth said.

He kept his eye on one door, while his wife kept the other one under surveillance. By the time the deputy sheriffs arrived, the suspects had moved to a crap table where they were arrested.

But despite his success in the private eye business, Soens said he will remain a businessman and let the professionals do the detective work in the future.

#### APPROVE HOSPITAL

Permission to construct a 24 to 78 bed hospital at 23621 Main St. was granted this week to Drs. Peter and Lily Chang by the County Regional Planning Commission.

#### NAME COMMISSIONER

Joe Doss, Torrance businessman was named for a vacancy on the Airport Commission by Mayor Albert Isen who said that a previous nominee, Attorney George Kurtz was unable to serve.



HARRY C. AARTINIEN

### City OK'd Subdivision Streets Hit

Several subdivision streets started crumbling four months after they were accepted by a former city engineering official.

This assertion is contained in a public works department report to be submitted to the City Council Tuesday.

Wade E. Peebles, public works director, said that the city will be forced to pay for the cost of what he described as major street failures, which occurred only four months after they were accepted from the subdivider, Harry Kissel, by John R. Patrick, former assistant to the city engineer, last January.

#### Sidewalks

Peebles also pointed out in the report on the subdivision of 80 hillside lots, that sidewalks were not built according to plans, and that a turn-around on Via Lado is not large enough to permit a fire truck to turn completely.

The report was requested by Councilman J. A. Beasley who said he had noticed fences breaking up and a huge crack.

Only 25 homes have been constructed on the terraced terrain, leaving 55 undeveloped lots.

#### Fireworks

"If we don't have an engineering department pretty soon, somebody better start looking for a job, there's going to be a lot of fireworks," Beasley declared.

He said that he believes there has been something hay-wire with the engineering department for the past five years.

"If we had had a good engineering department that worked properly, this would never have happened," the councilman snapped. Peebles estimated cost of repairing streets in the subdivision will be "several hundred dollars."

The public works director also noted in his report that walls which block rear to front lot drainage, could cause disaster to the property.

### Hicks to Head World War I Veteran Group

Art Hicks was elected commander of Torrance Barracks No. 1920, Veterans of World War I, newly formed local organization.

Other officers are Paul Sloanecker and Charles Blackburn, vice commanders, George Dannels, chaplain, H. B. Huffine, quartermaster-adjutant, Clarence Kaler and L. D. Stage, trustees.

Regular meetings will be held on the second and fourth Fridays of the month at 8 p.m. in the Walteria Park recreation building. A women's auxiliary is also being formed.

### School District Emphasizes Importance of Reading Ability at All Levels of Age

The ever-increasing importance of the printed word has led Torrance schools to re-double efforts to see that its Johnnies and Susies can read both well and quickly.

The flood of literature which fills homes and businesses, requires a good ability to read. Gone are the days of the illiterate employe who doesn't need to read directions. To help its students read better, Torrance schools have been trying out several programs including:

1. Johnnies and Susies at many of the schools have been using the S.R.A. (Science Reading Association) reading laboratory, which consists of 150 pamphlets graded in order of difficulty. They are designed for use by children who vary in ability to read, just as they vary in size and shape.

2. The Johnnies and Susies in high school can take speed reading courses this summer to help them read faster, with the aid of some new techniques and new equipment. Now only a summer course, speed reading may be added to the regular school year's curriculum.

#### Only Examples

"These are only examples of successful reading teaching methods in Torrance," Assistant Superintendent Albert Posner said. "They are not the only ways to teach reading. Teachers are constantly changing their teaching methods to help individual children learn more effectively."

The S.R.A. reading lab, which is housed in an easily portable box, is used as supplementary reading material in sixth, seventh, and eighth grade rooms as well as in high school. Similar material is being developed for younger children, but it has not yet been published. Several elementary schools tried this kit last year and it worked so well that its use is being expanded next year.

The S.R.A. series contains stories designed for students of varied reading abilities, ranging from third through twelfth grade. The simplest reading and easiest vocabulary starts out with such titles as "The First Jump," "Train Wreck," "First Plane Across the Country," and others.

#### Faster Readers

If Johnny is an extra fast reader, he may be reading such difficult selections as Ralph Waldo Emerson's essay on "Self-Reliance," Joseph Wood Krutch's book review of "The Bright Medusa," and Matthew Arnold's "Sweetness and Light."

The kits emphasize fast reading, but are designed for Johnny to check his actual knowledge of what he reads. At the end of each selection are questions on the story as well as vocabulary checks. Generally fast readers are able to retain more of what they read than slow readers.

After he reads his selection, Johnny can take a test on it and

score his own work. He figures up how fast he has read and how well he understood the material. When his scores are good enough, he moves on to more difficult pieces. There is practically no cheating, because students are not allowed to look at their scores. (Continued on page two)

### Hernandez Proves His Check Is Good

Reminjo Hernandez, 46, proved that he could cash his paycheck, but he didn't keep the money very long.

The foundryman of 16317 Gramercy place, told police he was waiting for a bus at Torrance Blvd. and Sartori Ave., when he became engrossed in some type of toothpick game played by three men.

After a while they invited him to play with them, but Hernandez said he had no money, only a check.

One of the players, a scar-faced man, examined the check carefully, then shook his head.

"It is no good," he informed Hernandez. The foundryman told him it was.

"I bet you \$50 you cannot cash it," he was told. Hernandez strolled to a store nearby and cashed the check, and put the \$120 in his shirt pocket.

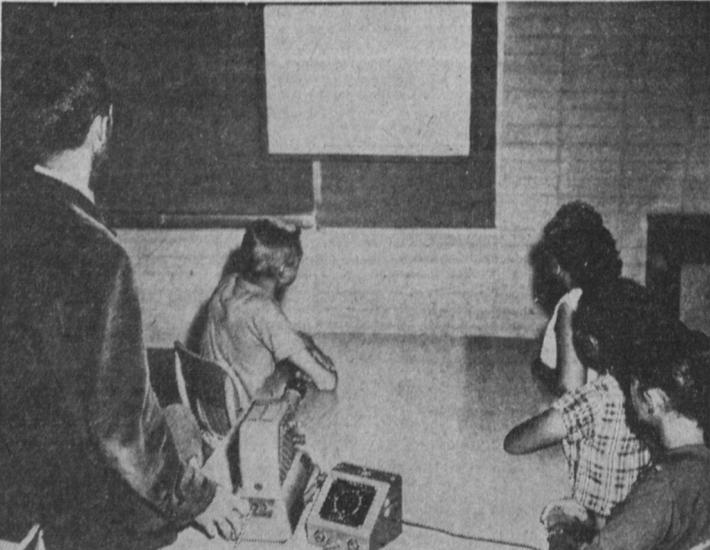
Scarface grabbed the money out of his pocket and dashed off.

"I'll double it for you," were his parting words. Hernandez was all for chasing him. But the two other men counselled him against it.

"Don't get excited, he'll bring it back. He's an honest man," Hernandez was told.

After a few moments the two other men got up and advised him, "You sit down on the bench, we'll go after him and get your money."

Hernandez sat down on the bench and waited. And waited. And waited. For two full hours. Then he called police.



**PUSH, PULL, LOOK QUICK**—Students in Harold Klondock's speed reading class at the North High School have to read fast or they will miss the numbers which are flashed on the screen by the tachistoscope. This device, which flashes the numbers and words on the screen for periods varying from one second to 1-100th of a second, forces students to read quickly and to read whole phrases. Students are John Buckley, Leora Gatlin, Rickie Kuboshige and Carolyn Rathbun.

### Torrance Rancho Days Events Start Wednesday

The third annual Torrance Rancho Days will open for a five-day run Wednesday in the civic center.

The civic celebration sponsored by 32 organizations will feature a midway, wild animal circus, thrill rides, games, a parade, concession stands and a two-day championship rodeo.

The midway behind the civic buildings on Torrance Blvd. will open at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, at noon Saturday and at 1 p.m. on Sunday.

This year's parade, which will be an invitational one featuring some of the finest marching and riding units, will be held in the evening this year, beginning at 6 p.m. Saturday. It will form at Cabrillo Ave., and Carson St., move north on Cabrillo to Sartori, northwest on Sartori to Torrance Blvd. and west on Torrance to its terminus at the Benstead swimming pool.

The rodeo will start at 2 p.m. both Saturday and Sunday.

The midway will feature 22 thrill rides and 35 concession stands. It will also be the location for a wild animal show to feature lions, elephants and other wild circus animals.

The 32 co-sponsoring organizations will man all the booths, and donate 25 per cent of their receipts toward a Torrance float in the Tournament of Roses Parade, while the Chamber will allocate all its proceeds to the float.

LA. Gov. Glenn Anderson will be grand marshal of the parade and will also be guest of honor at a presentation dinner to be held at the Palms Restaurant following the parade.



**SHOWDOWN**—The Indian seems to have the draw on the cowboy in this Wild West drama enacted at city hall in anticipation of Rancho Days, which begin Wednesday. The squaw is Jan Hoffman, PBX operator, while the surrendering cowpoke is Ladene Chamberlain, secretary to City Manager George Stevens.