

Blowguns Cause Furor



The perfect example of the seemingly innocent toy that, in the hands of an imaginative youngster, suddenly turns brutally lethal, has been driving Torrance police, Humane Society officials and pet owners frantic.

The toy, a six-foot length of electrician's aluminum tubing, coupled with a little cone of paper weighted with wax or putty and fringed with a three-inch nail produces a blowgun

and dart as accurate and deadly as any Mau-Mau weapon.

DEADLY

In a demonstration put on by Torrance juvenile officers the dart easily imbedded itself a good three inches into a telephone book. In other tests the dart flew, with extreme accuracy, some 150 yards to lodge in the side of a building.

These instruments of destruction have been

turning up in increasing numbers in the hands of mechanically inclined youngsters of Torrance.

The darts have been found in backyards and imbedded in buildings. Humane Society officers reported that they have been called to remove them from cows, dogs, cats and pigeons. Some of the darts, they said, have even been poisoned, using a boiled-down concoction of ant syrup which

has a strichnine base.

COULD KILL

Thus far no one has been injured, police officers reported, although it is just a matter of time. These wicked toys, they said, are perfectly capable of killing a person and have more penetrating power than a .22 rifle.

Officers said that they are confiscating the weapons as rapidly as they can be found and asked parents whose youngsters have one to take it away

from them.

If someone is injured with this weapon, they warned, the youngster responsible will be taken to Juvenile Hall and held on a charge of assault with a deadly weapon.

One 12-year old youngster found trudging through a field with a double barreled blowgun and a quiver full of darts, said that "every kid in my neighborhood has one" and that they were used for "hunting."



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OK HUGE INCREASE IN SUPERIOR COURT COST

Fourth Floor Will Be Added To Structure

County officials late yesterday approved hiking the size of the proposed courthouse building by a full storey and adding nearly \$750,000 to the budget for its construction.

Planned by the architectural firm of Adams, Morgan, Latham, Kripp and Wright, original plans called for a three storey building that would house eight courtrooms and associated offices.

Adjusted budget for what will be the largest building in Torrance when completed, is now \$3,057,000 instead of the original \$2,350,000 allocation.

EFFICIENT

Officials reporting on the expansion of the Superior Court facilities said that it was more economical and efficient to allow for future expansion needs now than

to wait until the building was built.

Adjusted plans will call for four courtrooms each on the second and third floors, two more and space for an additional two on the fourth floor.

L. S. Hollinger, chief administrative officer for the county, said that increasing the size of the structure would allow room for new juvenile traffic court, a civil division branch of the sheriff's office, law library and for a public defender's office.

Book Driver of Speeding Vehicle

A high speed chase through the streets of Torrance Sunday evening ended abruptly when the pursued vehicle flipped over at the corner of Hawthorne and Sepulveda and slid to a stop. Booked at Torrance police

station was Dennis D. Duchemin, 23, of 17202 Glenburn Ave.

A passenger in the car, Doreen Southern, 21 of 21 El Segundo, was treated for injuries at Little Company of Mary hospital.



SLOWLY SINKING — Car, driven by Rudy Wahl, of 1567 W. 203rd St., plunged into this open, water-filled hole at the corner of Torrance and Madrid on the last day of the weekend rain storm. Wahl, a native of Germany, pleaded with passerby to help him pull the vehicle from a wat-

ery grave. When the car was finally dragged forth the reason for his excitement became evident: Apparently not trusting banks, Wahl had his life's savings, totaling several hundred dollars, hidden under the front seat.

Tuesday Night's Tally Shows That 35 Candidates Will Vie for Five City Posts

A strong group of civic minded candidates for public office in the April 10 municipal elections had thrown their collective hats in the ring by closing time last night.

Final date for filing nominating papers is noon tomorrow.

Complete roster of candidates who had taken out papers by 5 p.m. Tuesday were:

MAYOR: Incumbent Albert Isen, Councilman Willys Blount, R. Pat Hogue, Frank Burk, James Cassidy and Arthur Armijo. Burk, Cassidy and Armijo had not returned completed papers.

COUNCILMAN: Incumbent J. A. Beasley, Bud Rose, John Barton, Eva Bisou, James Cicchini, Ross Sciarrotta, Naomi McVey, Nat Mondati, William R. Steele, Garth Balknap, Jean Clawson, George Kurtz, Ken Miller, Fred Steinbroner, Jr., Russell E. Cameron and David K. Lyman. Rose, Barton, Belknap, Mrs. Clawson, Kurtz, Miller, Steinbroner and Cameron had not returned their completed papers last night.

CITY CLERK: George

Morehart, Charles Deck, Herma Tillim, Rose Graig, Thirvin D. Fleetwood, Earle Sumpter, James Shidler, Vernon Coil and William A. Manis. Of these, only Manis had not returned his papers.

CITY TREASURER: Incumbent Harriett Leech, Fred Spangler and Harry O. Karlson. Neither Mrs. Leech nor Karlson had returned the papers by "closing up" time last

night. Rush of last minute applicants are expected to file before deadline tomorrow noon.

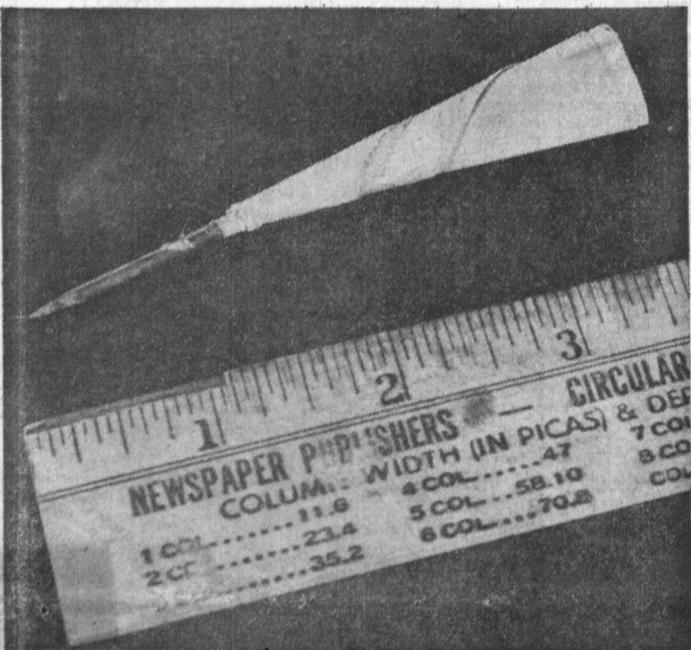
Experienced sources indicated that they expected some 25 candidates for three city council posts to file before the deadline. Only one incumbent is seeking reelection to the three posts that will be vacated.



J. A. BEASLEY
... Incumbent



KEN MILLER
... Will Run



LETHAL WEAPON — Torrance police officers reported this week that they will make every effort to stop the use within the city of blowguns and darts, including confiscation of the weap-

ons. Humane Society officers have reported that dogs, cats, pigeons and cattle have been shot with the darts, which are quite capable of killing a human being.

UNTIL SEASON'S END . . . Southwood Little League To Stay at Victor Park

Councilmen quietly heard both sides of the question on whether or not the Southwood Little League should be forced to move from its temporary home at Victor Park, and then decided that the club should stay where it was

Representing area homeowners, Mrs. Mary Walker appealed to the council to move the league to a more desirable location so that work could be started on the park. Development of the park which was budgeted for this year has been delayed through several seasons because of a lack of funds.

Homeowners in the audience stated that they felt turning over public lands to

a private concern was improper. They stated that the league remaining at the park would hold up starting dates until after summer was half over and completion dates until Fall.

They also pointed out that this was unfair to other users of the site, the youngsters under eight and over 12 years of age, girls and adults.

Paul Sampson, president of the league, stated that the Southwood organization had been forced to move four times in five years and lack a permanent home.

Turning point in the argument came when Lee Bolin, representing the Texaco Company, reported that negotiations were underway to give the league a permanent home on a company oil lease at Halison near Beryl St. He said that negotiation would be over and contract stipulations met by the end of the season, and the council agreed to allow the league to remain at the park until that time.

Fete Supervisor For Help in Gaining Court

Members of the South Bay Bar Association will host Supervisor Burton W. Chace at an invitation luncheon Friday at the Plush Horse Restaurant.

Meeting will be held in appreciation of the many efforts made by Chace to bring the Southwest District branch of the Superior Court to the Torrance civic center.

Testimonial luncheon will begin at 12:15 p.m. at the restaurant, located at 1700 Pacific Coast Highway.



UP IN SMOKE — Torrance firemen were able to partially save this trailer, located at the corner of Carson St. and Western Ave., Saturday night. Fire, from unknown causes, gutted inside of the trailer but left framework

and exterior relatively unharmed. No one was in the mobile home when the fire started. Here fireman pokes his head into a hole cut in the wall to make sure that the last ember is out.

Guest Speaker Will Appear at Realtor Meeting

The Torrance - Lomita Board of Realtors will feature Al Tomsik, nationally known author, lecturer and direct selling specialist at their membership luncheon, this afternoon in the board office, 22833 S. Arlington.

Tomsik is the founder and director of Tomsik Sales Institute, which has had wide acceptance by West Coast and national sales corporations. As a highly successful master salesman, Tomsik's record is impressive. He has sold over a million dollars worth of merchandise. In one small community of 798 houses, he placed 625 vacuum cleaners. He has trained thousands of salesmen and managers. Traveling over half-a-million miles, he has lectured in every major city on the West Coast.

Interested persons may contact the Torrance-Lomita Board of Realtors, DA 6-3010 for reservations for the event.

dial DA 5-1515
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