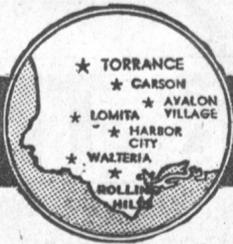


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TORRANCE PRESS

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VOLUME XIV, NUMBER 4

SUNDAY, APRIL 29, 1962

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HOST POLICE CHIEFS — The city of Torrance Thursday played host to chiefs of police from neighboring cities at a luncheon held at the local Elks Club. Major topics discussed included summaries of problems currently facing all area cities. Shown above, following the session, are: Roy Tracey, Gardena police chief; Chief Harry P. Severns of Hawthorne; Torrance Councilman Nickolas Drale; Torrance Police Chief Percy Bennett; and Chief Curt Richardson of Redondo Beach (Press Photo)

POLICE END MYSTERY OF BODY ON WHS SITE

Extradition Of Pair Held In Fla. Sought

Torrance police and sheriff's deputies this week are seeking to extradite two suspects in the 1961 slaying of Charley J. B. Miller, presently held in Florida jails.

Body of the man was found by workmen last September 12 on the West Torrance High School site.

Peggy Erbland, 20, presently held at the Florida Institution for Women, has admitted the killing. Also held in custody at the Florida Institution for Men is her accomplice, Jack Abbott, Jr., 23.

Lt. Don Hamilton, of the Torrance detective bureau, and Sgt. R. Hopkinson, of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Homicide Detail,

are presently in Florida interviewing the two suspects.

DETAILS

When details of the extradition are ironed out the two officers will be joined by Detective Myles Hamilton and Matron Margaret Virden of the Torrance Police Department who will return the two suspects to California to stand trial.

A first degree murder complaint was issued by Deputy District Attorney J. Miller Leavy of Inglewood Court on April 24.

The girl is presently serving a sentence of six months to five years at the Lowell, Florida institution on a forgery charge.

Abbott is serving a six months to 15 year term on the same charge.



VICTIM SAVED — Police and firemen, above, gently lift the stretcher carrying unconscious Jacob Crawford, 31, 10935 Mansel Ave., from the top of a Torrance High School building where he was stricken yesterday. A workman on the building, Crawford

was installing wiring when he touched a "hot" wire and was knocked unconscious. Hospital authorities said that he was out of danger. Rescuers spent nearly half an hour getting the victim off the roof. (Press Photo)

Hearing on New Trial for Convicted Area Youth Slated for Tomorrow in LB Court

Representatives of the American Civil Liberties Union this week indicated that they would be on hand tomorrow when arguments asking a new trial for Billy Romain Smith, found guilty of kidnapping and assault, are presented.

Smith, 21, who lived at 21927 Harvard St., was arrested following a series of laundromat holdups in the Torrance area. Taking part in the arrest were officers of the Los Angeles Police Department and sheriff's deputies.

Charges that both the arrest and the trial were "irregular," made by witnesses and relatives, have attracted the attention of the ACLU. Spokesmen for the organization, which has its headquarters in Los Angeles, said that they hoped to enter the case as a "friend of the court."

The ACLU is primarily an organization of attorneys interested in seeing that the Constitutional guarantees granted every citizen are not violated.

Informed officials in both city and county government also indicated that procedures involved in the arrest of Smith are under close scrutiny.

NEW EVIDENCE

Plea for a new trial for the convicted man will be based on new evidence, reported defense attorney Robert Krause, who stated that the original conviction was brought in on the flimsiest of evidence.

Jury, during the trial, apparently ignored testimony that, at the exact moment the alleged crimes were committed, the suspect was attending a gathering of family and friends and that 13 persons were available to testify to that effect.

Krause also pointed out that initial reports made by the victims to the police were uniform in stating that the assailant was about 5'10" tall, weighed about 185 pounds, and had dark, bushy hair.

Smith is about 5'4" tall, weighed about 130 pounds at the time of his arrest, (although his weight has now dropped to about 100 pounds) has light brown hair which he has worn in a crew cut for the past five years.

A suspect, arrested in Newhall two months ago and who plead guilty to identical offenses, lived in the area at the time of the alleged crimes. His physical description tallies with reports originally filed with the police by the victims.

Witnesses at the trial, appalled by the lack of evidence presented in gaining the conviction, re-

ferred to the youth's conviction as "frontier justice."

Married and father of a

5-month old son, the accused youth was employed as a cook at the time of his arrest.



NEW DODGER — Joe Moeller, 19, local high school graduate and now top pitcher for the Los Angeles Dodgers, became a father for the first time Wednesday. A son, as yet unnamed, was born to the diamond star's wife,

Elizabeth, 18, at Little Company of Mary Hospital. Here the new arrival poses for his parents and photographers in the arms of Sister Angela, in charge of the hospital nursery. (Press Photo)

Save Child's Life

Immediate action by police officers and firemen Friday saved the life of a Hollywood Riviera child, hospital authorities reported yesterday.

Stephanie Gainey, 4, 5314 Calle Mayor, ceased breathing during convulsion. Officers, speeding the child to a hospital in a police car, continued giving artificial respiration and had her breathing again by the time they arrived.

Heading the Armed Forces Day luncheon committee is Robert Vroman, vice president, Torrance Junior Chamber of Commerce, while Jerome I. Scharfman, city director of finance, has been named Torrance Civic Center military equipment display chairman.

Attorney John J. Barton May Ask for Vote Recount



JOHN J. BARTON
... May Ask Recount

An unsuccessful candidate for city council in the recent municipal elections, yesterday reported that he was strongly considering calling for a recount of ballots cast.

Torrance attorney John J. Barton reported that the relatively minor difference of 230-plus in the total votes cast for him and for successful candidate Ken Miller and the possibility of an accounting error in one precinct, led him to believe that a recount should be made.

Barton ran fourth in the race for three council seats. Noting that he had thirty days from the time that the ballot was officially canvassed, (April 17), in which to file for a recount he stated that he would be particularly interested in the tally from precinct 46 and the precincts immediately surrounding it.

Another attorney and unsuccessful candidate for city council first noted that the possibility of error existed. Although three times as many votes could have been cast for councilmen as for mayor the number actually cast was less.

Out of 687 possible votes for councilman that could have been cast in this precinct only 185 were tallied.

Open Search for Mother of Year

Letter Describing Qualifications Should Accompany Press Entries

The Torrance Press' annual search for the "Mother of the Year" gets underway with this edition.

A panel of outstanding judges will select the most qualified candidate from the expected hundreds of letters and the Torrance Press, as sponsor or the program, will present a beautiful plaque to the winner.

School-age youngsters, in particular, are invited to send in their letters describing, in 50 words or less, the qualities that make their mother outstanding. Letters will be reprinted in a special column.

However, the competition is open to everyone. A neighbor, husband or relative may clip the entry from which appear in this newspaper each edition until deadline, fill it in properly and submit it along with the letter.

Winner will receive her plaque and will be commemorated as mother of the year in our special Mother's Day Edition, May 13.

As confidante, patcher of skinned knees, family dietitian, and, most of all, the hub around which the home smoothly revolves, the winner of the competition will be honored in the name of all the mothers of Torrance.

Everyone is welcome to enter. Any mother living within the circulation area of the Torrance Press is eligible to win.

So get busy. Take out paper and pen and outline the many traits that make your entry the most outstanding mother in town. Clip the accompanying entry form and fill it out properly.

This is her chance to become Torrance's Mother of the Year.



"MY MOMMY IS . . ." —Jo Ann Luke, 10, fourth grader at Anza School, reads a letter entering her mother in the Torrance Press' Mother of the Year competition. When completed, letter and entry form will be mailed to the main offices of the Press, 3238 Sepulveda, Torrance.

MOTHER OF THE YEAR

If you feel that your mother, or the mother of a friend, is best qualified to become Torrance's "Mother of the Year" for 1962, you are invited to enter this competition.

List the reasons you feel that your candidate is best qualified in a letter of 50 words or less, and send it in with this entry form properly made out.

Remember, deadline is Friday, May 11, at 12 noon.

Candidate's Name	Sponsor's Name
Address	Address
Telephone No.	Telephone No.

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