

Press Dynamite Search

SMUT DEALERS 'CLEAN HOUSE'

Search Fails To Find Smut, Attorney Says

TORRANCE — The city's chief legal counsel has hit back at indications Torrance is brimming over with hardcore pornography.

"It just isn't here," said City Attorney Stanley Remelmeyer.

Attempting to clarify the city's legal position in the drive against newsstand smut, Remelmeyer said most of the material cited by decent literature campaigners is in "the so-called gray area."

NOT OBSCENE
He referred to magazines which would undoubtedly be objectionable to juveniles, but which are not ruled obscene by the courts.

"It's a hard line to draw," said Remelmeyer.

Remelmeyer worked closely with an original decent literature group, and also has investigated the possible influx of pornography with Lt. Gus Rethwisch of the police department's juvenile division.

NO PROSECUTION
He said most of his investigations failed to uncover material for which dealers could be prosecuted under present statutes.

Gardena city officials currently are attempting to prosecute a suspected dealer of obscene literature, but legal officials say chances of conviction appear slight.

Mayor Orders Police Scrutiny

TORRANCE — An all-out campaign to have nearly 150 magazine dealers voluntarily "clean house" of newsstand smut was kicked off this week.

"It's a wonderful dream that they'll cooperate," said Asst. Police Chief Mervin Porter.

The drive followed close on the heels of a City Council meeting Tuesday, during which an estimated 250 women paraded for action to rid Torrance of "newsstand filth."

The placard-carrying, threat-shouting mob neared mass hysteria as Mayor Albert Isen tried to regain order in an already jammed council chambers.

MAMMOTH TASK
In their drive begun Wednesday, police kicked off the mammoth task of contacting 143 local magazine dealers and soliciting voluntary censorship of questionable material.

"Some of the magazines being sold here are real smut," said Porter, appointed by councilmen to work with the decent literature group.

"It is even worse when placed in the hands of juveniles," he said.

Problem in clearing the city's newsstands of pornography, city officials say, is state legislation pre-empting enactment of local laws.

TOUCH SURFACE
Although police were able to only touch the surface in contacting dealers last week, initial indications were that many will cooperate.

"We've had wonderful reception," said Lt. Gus Rethwisch.

Police Probe Youth's Death By Narcotics

TORRANCE — Charles G. Moore, 22, has been turned over to the Los Angeles County Sheriff's department for questioning in the death of an apparent narcotics addict.

Police say Moore is being held in connection with the death of Frederick Padilla, 21, whose body was found in a vacant field here last Thursday.

Padilla is believed to have been with Moore when he took the fatal overdose of an undetermined narcotic, sheriff's detectives say.

Results of an autopsy by the county coroner's office still are pending.



THEY'LL BE PROTECTED when they start kindergarten at Crenshaw School, near where pedestrian overpass is being built by city, county and school district at cost of \$50,000. Youngsters are David, Daniel and DeWayne, twin sons of Mr. and Mrs. John Watson, 1126 W. 187th St. They're holding \$16,000 check presented by Supervisor Kenneth Hahn (center) as the county's share of construction costs. Others taking part in ceremony are Mayor Albert Isen (right) and Albert Charles, president, Torrance Board of Education.

MAYOR PROCLAIMS 'SOS' MONTH

WHEREAS, children are a priceless asset upon whom the future of humanity rests, and

WHEREAS, the well-being of both children and adults is greatly influenced by the literature that they read,

WHEREAS, reading should give us many hours of pleasure and provide refreshment, perspective and a sense of well-being, but

WHEREAS, we note more and more indecent and otherwise objectionable literature is being made available to the people of Torrance.

NOW, THEREFORE, on behalf of the City Council of the City of Torrance, I, Albert Isen, do hereby proclaim that the month of November be designated as "STAMP OUT SMUT MONTH"

in the City of Torrance and urge all citizens to discover that good literature is available to them and to work toward banishing all indecent literature from our city.

This, the 16th day of October, 1962.

ALBERT ISEN, Mayor
City of Torrance

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TORRANCE PRESS

8238 SEPULVEDA BLVD. — Phone DA 5-1515

VOLUME XIV, NUMBER 51 SUNDAY, OCTOBER 14, 1962 10c A COPY

Train Rams Truck, But Driver Escapes

TORRANCE — A slow-moving freight train ramed a panel truck at Western Ave. and Sepulveda Blvd, late Thursday, dragging the driver 25 feet but injuring him only slightly.

Police identified the driver as David S. Bell, 30, Wilmington. He was hospitalized with neck and back injuries. Officers said Bell's truck stalled on the track and was struck by a Santa Fe freight train.

Train Engineer John Barrie, 46, a Whittier resident, said he saw the truck pull onto the tracks, but thought it would back off.

The train, moving approximately 20 miles an hour, ramed the car broadside and dragged it 25 feet down the track, investigators said.



WHAT FIREMEN DO when they're not fighting fires is depicted in this scene at main fire headquarters, Crenshaw Blvd. at Carson St. Other chores keep firemen busy, keep them in shape for more rigorous activity necessary in case of emergency.

Two Killed In Series of Car Crashes

CARSON — A series of chain-reaction crashes claimed two lives here Saturday, one of them a companion policeman.

The California Highway Patrol identified the dead as:

Dess K. Jhipps, 37, the policeman; and Kermit Modine, 37, address unknown.

Investigators said Officer Phipps was killed when his patrol car, in pursuit of a traffic violator, was struck by a second auto at Wilmington and Artesia Blvds.

Driver of the second car, Anna B. Patterson, 40, a Gardena resident, escaped serious injury, officers said. She was quoted as saying she failed to hear the police car's siren.

Seven minutes later, while officers still investigated the first accident, an auto driven by Stanley A. McTavish, 25, of La Puente, ramed into the rear of a car stopped for heavy traffic on Artesia Blvd. west of Wilmington Blvd.

Farkas, a passenger in McTavish's car, died three hours later from internal injuries at County General Hospital.

The others escaped serious injury.

'Glue-Sniffing' Laws Sought from Council

NEWS BRIEFS

School Board to Discuss 1-A
TORRANCE — Proposed support of ballot proposition 1-A will be discussed at Monday's meeting of the Board of Education. Meeting time is 7:30.

Passage of the measure would permit speeded-up construction of state college facilities, including South Bay State College.

Chamber Backs College Site
TORRANCE — An official memo requesting state college trustees to establish South Bay State College here was authorized this week by the Chamber of Commerce's board of directors.

Purpose of the memo, according to Chamber President Martin M. Denn, is to express the interest and desires of business, commerce and professional persons in construction of the college at Sepulveda and Crenshaw Blvds.

'Drug Baby' Surgery Delayed
TORRANCE — A fifth corrective operation on thalidomide baby William Webb Jr. has been postponed a week, according to officials at Harbor General Hospital.

Doctors said the infant, son of a Gardena couple, suffered from a slight cold Thursday, the day set for another surgical step.

The operation will be performed some time next week, officials say.

Eighteen Arrests In Past 6 Months
TORRANCE — Eighteen juveniles, some as young as 12 years old, have been arrested here since April for the potentially-fatal practice of "glue-sniffing."

The report comes officially before city councilmen Tuesday when they will be asked to approve an ordinance providing a \$500 fine and six months in jail for convicted glue-sniffers.

Smelling of glue, adhesive cement, mucilage and dope creates an effect similar to drunkenness, but can cause severe brain damage and death.

TEEN VICTIMS
City Attorney Stanley Remelmeyer, who prepared the report, said Police Department statistics show one case in which four boys ranging in age from 14 to 17 years were apprehended.

"Our complaints have originated from all areas of the city and from gathering places such as theaters and public parks where even younger children might be influenced," Remelmeyer said.

He said there also have

been reports of persons under the influence of glue driving automobiles.

STIFF LAWS
"It is a problem of immediate concern," said Remelmeyer, "and one showing a significant increase."

County supervisors already have called for stiff state legislation to control the problem.

Funds Sought For City-wide Cleanup Drive

TORRANCE — A total of \$317.90 in city funds will be asked Tuesday by the Torrance Beautiful Commission to publicize citywide cleanup projects.

City Manager Wade Peebles says the amount would go toward purchase of anti-litter campaign material. City councilmen are expected to approve the request.

A thousand "litterbug" posters, 20 bus posters, five street banners to be displayed over Torrance intersections and 250 "litterbug" bumper strips would be authorized with council approval.

Mrs. Roy Apsey, chairman of the newly-formed commission, said the materials would advertise November as "Clean Up" month and could be used in other subsequent city beautiful events.

Search Pressed for Dynamite; Fear Juveniles May Be Suspects

TORRANCE — Police believed taken from Harvey Aluminum Co. on Wednesday, but the theft went undiscovered until Thursday.

Crudeness of the burglary attempt led police to believe juveniles may be involved.

"We just hope we find the stuff before it's too late," said Cook.

The blocks weigh half a pound each, are eight to 10 inches long and one and a half inches square. There is a hole in the center of each block, Cook said, and each block is light brown or cream colored.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation was brought in on the case Friday, but dropped out when it was learned the dynamite was not being used in a federal government contract.

Harvey Aluminum spokesmen said the blocks were used for testing purposes and were being stored in a special, locked munitions shed.

Although dynamite ordinarily is not set off by means other than a detonator, police feared it might be old and therefore susceptible to explosion by impact.

"The older it is," Cook said, "the more liable it is to be detonated."

Persons with information regarding possible whereabouts of the explosive have been asked to call police headquarters at FAirfax 8-3456.