

# Crime Lab Hit for Slow Analysis of Drugs

## Torrance Press-Herald

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**PILOT PROGRAM . . .** Learning about economics by studying goods and products consumed locally are second-grade youngsters at Riviera Elementary School. Looking up addresses of local stores in telephone book are Debbie Katsogianes (left) and Kim Keenan, while Jonathan Salem (standing) calls out names. Economics is being taught from kindergarten up in a pilot program in which Torrance has been selected as one of 30 school districts throughout the nation. Offering consultant service and materials to Torrance teachers during the long-range study project is the Joint Council on Economic Development.

### In Kindergarten Class

## Pilot Program in Economics Begins

(This is the first of two articles on how Torrance schools are teaching the study of our economic system and how to deal with economic problems.)

"What is Mommy when she is cooking breakfast?" The teacher placed a picture on her desk.

A tiny hand shot up. "She's a producer," said a little girl in the back of the room.

"And what is Daddy when he eats her cooking?" the teacher continued.

"A consumer," came a chorus of first-grade voices.

Unusual words for six and seven-year-olds to be tossing around? Possibly. But to Torrance youngsters engaged in a pilot program of economics, they've become as familiar as "cat" and "dog."

NOT ONLY do children in participating classes know the meaning of such words as "producer," "consumer,"

"specialization," and "capital," they understand how those basic principles are part and parcel of their daily lives.

The study of economics from kindergarten up was introduced in Torrance in selected classrooms this fall when the Torrance Unified School District was chosen to participate with 30 other outstanding school districts in the country in a program of curricular development being conducted by the Joint Council of Economic Education, an independent non-profit educational organization, financially supported by all segments of the economy, which is affiliated with the American Economic Association and the National Education Association.

Participating schools will be engaged through 1969 in a four-fold study. They hope to discover effective ways to:

- Build economic understandings into school curricula at all grade levels;
- Improve teacher preparation in economics;
- Develop and evaluate new teaching materials at all grade levels;
- Disseminate results.

ACCORDING TO Mrs. Mary Long, curriculum consultant for Torrance schools, it is hoped that by starting the study of economics early at a level they can deal with, Torrance youngsters will gain the tools of understanding that will enable them to become better voters and more interested participants in the affairs of the country when they grow up.

Emphasis on all grade levels is on helping students examine all possible solutions to problems by gathering data, selecting alternate actions, and figuring out the consequences of each of the alternatives.

To aid the teachers, an

area council of the Joint Council provides consultant services and new curriculum materials.

**HOW DO WE make good choices between unlimited wants and limited supplies?**

According to Mrs. Long, who is directing the project, (See ECONOMICS, Page A-2)

At 25, Leeson is married and has one son, 18 months old. He and his family currently reside in Downey.

In a joint announcement, (See CHAMBER, Page A-2)

After 12 years in Washington, Leeson returned to the west as editor of a weekly news journal for the California Trucking Association in Los Angeles.

COUNCILMAN Talbert suggested that Torrance could organize other area cities in sharing the expense of a community laboratory for dope analysis.

Koenig said the idea might not work, however, because other area cities have not experienced this problem.

"We'll have to go it alone."

The most effective action the City of Torrance could take in handling the situation would be to hire a policeman and train him as a chemist, Koenig said. Narcotics analysis, he added, is a highly technical process.

Police Chief Walter Koenig corroborated Talbert's statement, saying, "We've been working under this condition for a long time."

The Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce has announced the appointment of Michael E. Leeson to the staff as membership director. Leeson comes to Torrance after serving as assistant executive secretary of the California Beer Wholesalers' Association.

A native of Las Vegas, Nev., Leeson has traveled extensively throughout the United States. Due to his father's assignment with the federal government, his family settled in Washington, D.C. where he received his education and first employment in a membership organization — a local trade association.

At least seven narcotics charges stemming from Torrance were thrown out of court during January because the Sheriff's Crime Lab failed to process the dope confiscated as evidence.

Councilman Ed Talbert revealed this fact at Tuesday's regular City Council session, noting that courts cannot prosecute without a chemist's analysis stating that the material confiscated is actually an illegal narcotic. Talbert called for action to correct this situation.

Sheriff's Unit Acts Too Slow, Councilman Says

Chamber Adds Man To Staff

# O'Brien Found Guilty Of Slaying Policeman

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JERRY LEE O'BRIEN

## Cyclist Loses Leg In Crash

A Torrance youth was permanently maimed Thursday in a motorcycle accident which severed his left leg above the knee.

Rushed to Little Company of Mary Hospital for emergency treatment was 22-year-old Roy Dubach, 22005 La-deene Ave. Dubach was reported in "fairly good" condition Saturday morning.

The mishap occurred at 1:55 a.m. on Anza Avenue just north of Spencer Street, involving two cars and one other motorcycle.

POLICE SAID Dubach was headed north on Anza Avenue at about 50 miles per hour when he apparently ran into the right rear fender of a car driven by John R. Best, 19, of 20435 Anza Ave., Apt. 20.

The impact forced Dubach's vehicle into another motorcycle driven by 27-year-old Gerald H. Hilty, 21601 Howard St., who, in turn, slid into a car driven by Merlin L. Siler, 24, of 1714 Belmont Lane, Redondo Beach.

ALL FOUR vehicles had been headed north on Anza at the time of the collision. Police reports indicate that the accident left Dubach's leg 24 feet from the rest of his body.

The jury went into deliberation at 11:15 a.m. Wednesday, recessing for a 90-minute lunch at noon, and returning to the jury room at 1:30 p.m. Twenty minutes later Judge Donahue was informed the jury had reached a verdict.

THE DEFENSE, which may introduce witnesses for the first time during the penalty phase, did not argue the case prior to the conviction.

Before the trial, Public Defender Al Calof was unsuccessful in an attempt to acquire a change of venue out of Los Angeles and was denied a move to select two jurors to hear the guilt phase and penalty phase.

Judge Donahue ruled that news releases were of short duration and not inflammatory.

THE COURT spent seven days questioning 93 prospective jurors. A panel of seven men and seven women was selected to serve on a 12-man jury Feb. 15. Two alternates were selected.

After hearing 29 prosecution witnesses and a 40-minute summation by Deputy District Attorney Robert Burnett, the jury was instructed by Judge Donahue concerning the law involving a felony-murder offense.

The jury went into deliberation at 11:15 a.m. Wednesday, recessing for a 90-minute lunch at noon, and returning to the jury room at 1:30 p.m. Twenty minutes later Judge Donahue was informed the jury had reached a verdict.

Each member of the jury answered, "Yes," when asked if he or she agreed that the defendant was guilty of the first degree murder charge.

The defendant's mother, Betty Lee O'Brien, a companion said to be her sister, two press reporters, and five spectators were present when the verdict was rendered.

After the jury was excused and O'Brien was led back to a cell room, he turned and winked at his mother. He did it each day she was in the courtroom.

MRS. O'BRIEN appeared shaken as she stumbled out of the room, stood tearfully gazing outside from a third story window, finally making her way to the elevator in the company of her sister.

The only incident in the courtroom that brought a momentary sigh was during the reading of the verdict when Mrs. O'Brien clicked open her purse. She pulled out a handkerchief.

Mrs. O'Brien, according to testimony, was with her son when he acquired the blue Rambler automobile used in the escape. He obtained the car, using the name of Martin R. Sykes.

AUTO DEALER Ian Ridley of Encino identified the face and profile photographs of Mrs. O'Brien. He said she is the person the defendant introduced to him as his mother, Mrs. O'Brien.

Ridley answered he was able to remember her name by (See O'BRIEN, Page A-2)

## Penalty Phase Of Trial Set For Tomorrow

By HENRY BURKE  
Press-Herald Staff Writer

The penalty phase of the Jerry Lee O'Brien murder trial will begin tomorrow in Superior Court Judge Burch Donahue's courtroom.

O'Brien was convicted Wednesday of the shooting of Torrance Police Officer David N. Seibert while attempting an escape during a market robbery Aug. 10.

During the second phase of the bifurcated trial, the prosecution will seek the death penalty for O'Brien by proving prior felony violations.

THE DEFENSE, which may introduce witnesses for the first time during the penalty phase, did not argue the case prior to the conviction.

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## Dow Adds To Local Facilities

The Dow Chemical Co. has more than doubled its polystyrene production facilities at the company's Torrance plant, it was announced today.

Leland A. Doan, general manager of Dow's Western Division, said the new facilities will increase the plant's polystyrene production capacity to more than 100 million pounds per year.

Dow's Torrance plant is the largest producer of polystyrene in the West. The materials are sold under the company's Styron trademark and are used in the production of hundreds of products by the growing plastics industry in the West.

The Torrance plant was established in 1954 on a 54-acre site. In addition to producing Styron, the plant produces plastic construction and insulation materials.

## Candidates to Speak . . .

Candidates for the Torrance City Council have been invited to address members of the Hollywood Riviera Democratic Club Wednesday evening. The club will meet at 8 p.m. in the Western Federal Savings and Loan Association Pavilion in the Del Amo Financial Center, 21525 Hawthorne Blvd. The session is open to the public. Eleven candidates have entered the race for three council seats in the April 9 municipal election.

## Torrance Marine Wounded . . .

A mortar attack on the Marine fortress of Khe Sanh resulted in multiple wounds for a Torrance Marine Feb. 14. Injured by shrapnel was Lance Cpl. Roy Daniel Wilson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Wilson of 21731 Seannell Ave. Wilson had been assigned to supplying the 1st and 3rd Marine Divisions, engaged in defending Khe Sanh from some 40,000 North Vietnamese soldiers, the Defense Department said. He has been in Vietnam since June, 1967.

## Murder Conviction Returned . . .

A Wilmington man charged with murder in the death of Gwendolyn Feaster, 3, was convicted Wednesday afternoon of second degree murder. Curtis Lee Fox, 21, of 131 E. Cruces St., was ordered to return to Long Beach Superior Court March 13 for sentencing. Fox was babysitting with the girl at the time of her disappearance last Nov. 15. The girl's body was found Nov. 16 in a landfill on North Alameda Avenue. Fox was arrested after a coroner's report indicated the child died from a lacerated liver caused by a blow from a heel or a foot.



**OFFICERS TRAIN . . .** Officer George Joseph of the Inglewood Police Department maneuvers his motorcycle in an "S-turn" during a mid-term exercise in a Torrance Police Department motorcycle training class. A dozen officers, including trainees from Inglewood and El Segundo, are undergoing the training in preparation for assignments with the traffic enforcement division of the police departments. Noel Cobbs is the instructor in charge of the class for the Torrance Police Department. (Press-Herald Photo)