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Young Man Leads Police on 14-Mile Chase

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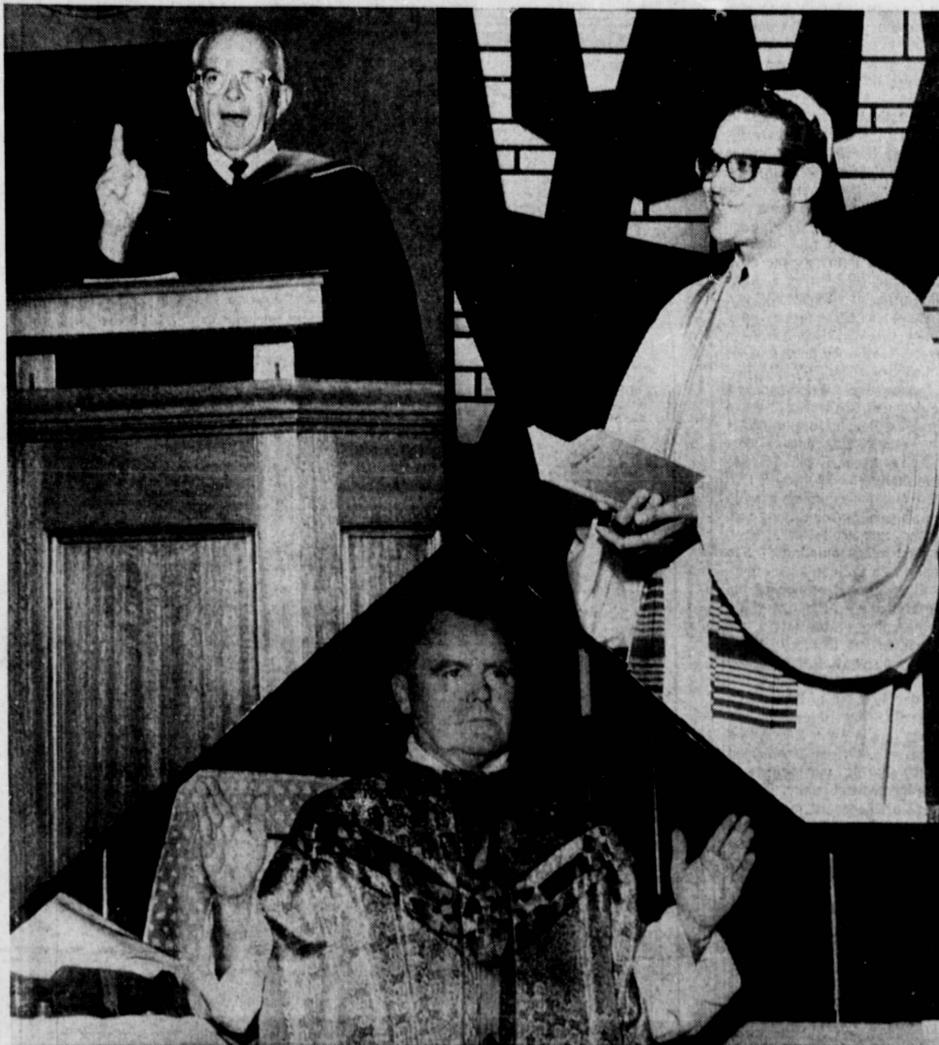
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A SEASON FOR ALL MEN . . . Reminding Press-Herald readers that this is the season which binds all men of goodwill together are the Rev. H. Milton Sippel (top left), pastor of the First Christian Church of Torrance; Rabbi Jerome I. Unger (top

right), spiritual leader of Temple Menorah; and Rev. Timothy Doyle, associate pastor at St. Katherine Laboure Catholic Church. While Christians throughout the world celebrate the Easter Season, Jews are observing the eight days of Passover. (Press-Herald Photo by Hal Fisher)

Heart Transplant Patient Succumbs

Doctors Say Death Caused By Pneumonia

A 58-year-old Oxnard man who became the Southland's first heart transplant recipient last Feb. 20 died suddenly Wednesday evening.

Richard Charles Newell died at Harbor General Hospital, where he received the new heart six weeks ago. Newell's death was attributed to pneumonia.

FIRST WORD of the change in Newell's condition came about 6 p.m. Wednesday, when doctor's expressed concern and labeled his condition "critical."

Late Tuesday, a hospital spokesman had told the Press-Herald that the Oxnard grocer was "progressing satisfactorily."

A hospital bulletin announcing the death of Newell was issued at 10:15 p.m. Wednesday. It said:

"That in spite of vigorous treatment, Richard Charles Newell, 58, died suddenly from pneumonia during the evening, six weeks following transplantation."

SPOKESMAN for the hospital said there was no indication that Newell's body was rejecting the heart he received in the nine-hour transplant operation.

Newell received the heart of Mrs. Shirley Ann Highhouse, 23, of the Los Angeles City area east of Torrance. Mrs. Highhouse reportedly took her own life after a family quarrel.

THE OXNARD grocer had remained at the hospital throughout the six weeks of his life after the surgery, but had been permitted to leave for short periods of time. He also was allowed to walk and to eat solid food.

Dr. Richard Cleveland, the 37-year-old chief of cardiac

surgery at Harbor General Hospital, and other members of the 13-man team which performed the transplant surgery, were present Wednesday when Newell died.

Drugs Series Slated

City Councilmen have approved the use of the Torrance Recreation Center for a series of seminars on drug abuse.

The unanimous vote came after Youth Welfare Commission Chairman Stanley Dunn presented his group's report on ways to combat the drug problem locally. The seminar on drug abuses is one of three programs supported by the commission in its report.

Called Project South Bay, the seminar series will begin Monday, April 21. Moderating the discussions will be Thomas Drucker, a UCLA doctoral candidate in educational psychology.

AIM OF the series is to create an atmosphere of meaningful dialogue between parent and child, adult and young person, helping them to understand each others problems and views.

Drucker's salary and expenses will be paid for privately by Bruce Donley of Torrance. If the program is a success, however, the Youth Welfare Commission may ask

(See SERIES, Page A-2)



ACCEPT CHECK . . . Reid L. Rundy, editor and co-publisher of the Press-Herald, accepts a check from Bill Roberts, district representative for the State Compensation Insurance Fund. The check represents a 34 per cent refund on premiums earned as a dividend for safety during the past year. (Press-Herald Photo)

For New Buses

City Seeks Federal Aid

The city of Torrance will apply for a federal grant to pay half the cost of acquiring 20 new buses for the Torrance Transit System.

By a vote of 5-1, City Councilmen gave City Manager Edward J. Ferraro the authority to apply for the funds under the Urban Mass Transporta-

tion Act of 1964. Sole dissenting vote was cast by Councilman William J. Uerkwitz.

Absent from the meeting was vacationing Councilman Ross Sciarrotta.

ESTIMATED total cost of acquiring the new buses is \$887,771. The federal grant would cover half that cost. An additional 1/6 of the total cost may also be reclaimed from the federal government at such time as a regional mass transportation plan, which includes Torrance, is adopted.

Councilmen learned from Assistant City Manager Jerome I. Scharfman that the city has been experiencing frequent mechanical difficulties with

presently-owned busses. Buses have been known to break down on their routes. New equipment is essential, he said, if the city is to maintain its bus lines.

MAYOR Albert Isen quipped that the city's run-down busses are held together by nothing but "spit and rubber bands." He said the acquisition of new busses is "mandatory," commenting that people shouldn't be too wary of accepting federal funds just because the city had had a bad experience with funds from another federal agency.

Isen noted that the Transportation Act stipulated that the federal government would

have no power to regulate the local operation of the bus lines. Items such as fares and routes would be left up to the local agency.

COUNCILMAN Uerkwitz, who voted against the measure, said the city has the obligation to provide bus service (See BUSES, Page A-2)

Burglars Ransack Houses

Burglars ransacked three Torrance homes Thursday, escaping with cash and other items worth a total of \$3,600, according to reports filed with Torrance police.

The first of the three burglaries was reported by Marge Schimmel, 2558 Torrance Blvd. She said a color television, a portable black-and-white television, and several small appliances were taken from her home.

Police said a back door has been forced open and the home had been ransacked. The loss was estimated at \$891.

THE SECOND burglary occurred at 18014 Bailey Drive, where a bedroom was ransacked. A color television, jewelry, and \$120 in cash was stolen for a total loss of \$905. The victim was identified as Andrew Druso.

The third burglary occurred at 17104 Yukon Ave. Mrs. Lois Barthel told police cash, jewelry, and a coin collection were taken by thieves who ransacked her bedroom. Mrs. Barthel said the loss amounted to \$1,872.

Tip-Off Leads Police To Arrest Wrong Man

An over-zealous car salesman tipped off Torrance police Monday when he thought he recognized a man wanted for car theft in this area.

Police whisked to the scene, arrested the suspect, and discovered 90 minutes later they had the wrong man.

The suspect turned out to be a 47-year-old Palos Verdes lawyer who proved he was in Australia at the time of the thefts.

The problem started when a car salesman at a large local agency approached the suspect, who appeared interested in purchasing a car. Just moments earlier, the salesman had been perusing a police bulletin and noted the striking similarity between the customer and the wanted man.

The man pictured on the po-

lice bulletin has stolen several cars in the Torrance area by taking the vehicles from car lots for "demonstration rides" and never returning.

The salesman tried to stall the customer and his wife, but the two left for another car lot without taking a demonstrator car. Police arrested the suspect a short time later at a nearby car lot.

Sgt. D. H. Cook, of the Torrance Police Department said, "We had all the probable cause in the world to arrest the man," noting the remarkable similarity between the customer and the described suspect. The customer's wife also fit the description of the woman who operates with the actual suspect.



JAYCEES HOST MEETING . . . Members of the Torrance Jaycees will host a statewide Jaycee meeting April 11, 12, and 13 when the California Jaycees R & R Congress meets at the Torrance Ramada Inn. Jim Burger (left), state director for the local Jaycees, lends his back to Mayor Albert Isen here as the mayor signs a proclamation designating the weekend to honor the Jaycees. Chuck Dishon, project chairman, watches in the signing. Some 200 delegates are expected to be here for the three-day session, which is to be devoted to selection of the outstanding records notebooks in the state for awards. Prizes will be awarded during the state convention in May. (Press-Herald photo)

Suspect Caught In Long Beach

With sirens blaring, vehicles from five police agencies chased a 19-year-old speeding suspect through several cities early Wednesday, apprehending the youth in the Long Beach area.

Jailed after a 14-mile chase, which reached speeds in excess of 120 miles per hour, was Gary Steven Gingerich of 1010 Emerald Ave. The youth was charged with drag racing, reckless driving, evading arrest, and assault with a deadly weapon.

Police said the suspect ran at least 14 red lights during the trip and narrowly missed hitting some 25 vehicles.

AT THE corner of Hawthorne Boulevard and Pacific Coast Highway, Police noted, the suspect vehicle hit the curb and blew out the car's lighting system, leaving the vehicle totally without lights for the remainder of the chase.

The chase began about 1:30 a.m. when Torrance patrolmen spotted two vehicles apparently engaged in a speed contest southbound on Hawthorne near Sepulveda Boulevard. When police attempted to apprehend the drivers, one

driver pulled over but the other continued at high speeds.

THE CHASE continued along Hawthorne and Pacific Coast Highway into the Long Beach area. Units from the Los Angeles and Long Beach Police Department, the Sheriff's Department, and the California Highway Patrol also joined the chase.

The suspect's vehicle and two police vehicles sustained damage to the undercarriages as a result of hitting a dip in the street at the corner of Pacific Coast Highway and Alameda Street, Los Angeles.

When apprehended, Gingerich told police he became frightened at the beginning of the chase and kept going because he didn't know how to get out of the situation gracefully.

Man Held On Rape Charges

Lennox Sheriffs have arrested a 26-year-old suspect in connection with Tuesday's rape of a Torrance woman in a Lomita church.

Arrested yesterday in Torrance was Donald Leroy Polard, 1943 W. 254th St., Lomita. Sheriff's deputies apprehended him at his place of employment.

The 35-year-old victim told officers she was praying at St. Margaret Mary's Church about 1:30 p.m. Tuesday when the suspect approached her from behind and forced her to walk upstairs to the choir loft.

After the assault, the suspect fled, telling the victim not to move for five minutes.

Young Man Robs Store

A young man wearing blue levis and a green jacket held up the Stop 'n' Go Market at 16426 Crenshaw Blvd. Monday night, escaping with \$149.

Clerk on duty told police the suspect walked behind the check stand and began to help himself to the cash. When she tried to push him away, he displayed the gun he had holstered in his waistband.