

39th Year—No. 5

(ESTABLISHED JAN. 1, 1914)

TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, JANUARY 15, 1953

Thirteen



By JACK O. BALDWIN

Driver Suffers Minor Injuries In Collision

Rape, the act of a man ravaging the body of a defenseless child, to my mind is a crime as heinous as murder.

Last Sunday such a crime was committed against a 10-year-old girl—a Torrance child enroute to Sunday school.

The police have only the most meager clues to help them catch the criminal who committed the act. The little girl peeked beneath her blindfold and saw she was being led up three curved steps to the scene of the crime. That, and the description of the man, which is as good as any 10-year-old can give, is all that police have to go on.

They are asking your help.

Where are those curved steps? Having listened to an account of the crime from Sgt. D. C. Cook it is my opinion that if a five-mile ring were placed around Torrance the house, apartment building, or possibly a small hotel where the crime was committed would lie within that five-mile circle.

Who knows of such a building with three or four, possibly five curved steps leading to the entrance? Find those steps and you've found the man. The criminal may read this and other stories describing the scene of the crime. Let it run. It will tend to indicate guilt. The cops will find him once they know who he is even if he does run for it.

I saw and talked with the child. She looks and acts like most all other 10-year olds. A little more quiet than some perhaps, but then who wouldn't be, surrounded by detectives and cops all asking questions about something she would probably just as soon forget.

If there is any doubt in anyone's mind that the girl might be exaggerating her story all they would need to do is read the police report of the case.

I did and almost vomited. Unless he is caught this fiend will hit again. Because she was able to stifle her screams this girl still lives but her brutal attacker told her he "... would do this if I have to kill you."

Here is an opportunity for each and every citizen of Torrance to help prevent another crime of this nature or one of even greater tragedy. Now is not the time to say "I don't want to get mixed up in this thing. I think I know where the house is but I hate to play stool-pigeon and tell on anybody."

The next time this man strikes a child may be killed.

This, however, is not the time to get panicky. It is a time to allow the normal course of events to take place. If you have any information on this crime inform the police, then let them bring him to trial and receive what ever fate the courts may decide.

Strong Backed Thief Sought

Torrance police this week are looking for a man with sticky fingers, a strong back, and a fairly large truck.

Workmen for the Economy Sewer Co., which is installing sewers in the Seaside Ranches area, told police Monday that someone had loaded up 200 Duff Norton 14-inch trench jacks during the previous night and hauled them away.

Police were told that the jacks, which are used to hold up the shoring on the sides of sewer trenches, were worth about \$6 a piece when new and weighed at least 15 pounds each.

Democrats Set Meeting Sunday

A meeting of the Torrance Democrats, Inc. has been scheduled for 2 p.m. Sunday at the Hollywood Riviera Beach Club, according to Irene E. Fraser, secretary of the group.

Mrs. Elizabeth Snyder, vice-chairman of the State Democratic Central Committee, will be the guest speaker. The meeting will be open to the public.

Treated for minor injuries at Harbor General Hospital Tuesday evening following a traffic collision at Pacific Coast Highway and Ocean Ave., was William D. Porter, 48, who gave his address as the Plaza Hotel, Torrance.

Porter was rushed to the hospital after his auto and one driven by Harry H. Mathews, Jr., 36, of Venice, collided. Porter told police he was attempting to make a left turn into Ocean when the eastbound Mathews car collided with his. He was released to a private physician following treatment at Harbor General.

Cubs to Tour L.A. Airport

Members of Cub Pack 732-C will muster at the Torrance Elementary School at 9 a.m. Saturday for a trip to the Los Angeles Municipal Airport.

The trip is in charge of W. R. Kuehs, activities chairman, who states that the Cubs' smaller brothers and sisters may make the trip also if accompanied by adults.

D. Boone Kirks, committee chairman, is making arrangements for the Cubs to tour the Hawaiian Straits cruiser. From 50 to 75 Cubs are expected to make the trip, which is to be by private caravan.

Number of Job Seekers Levels Off for Month

The local office of the Department of Employment started off the new year with 478 persons from Torrance seeking work, according to Mrs. Winona Ellis, manager of the Torrance branch.

The figure, Mrs. Ellis said, is exactly the same it was a month ago. On hand, according to a report issued yesterday, are persons seeking work in jobs ranging from a petroleum chemist to tailors, from aircraft inspectors to file clerks.

Of the total registered, 171 are women and 307 are men, while 38 per cent of the men are veterans.

Available applicants are classified as follows:

	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.
Professional	26	19	19
Clerical	137	74	63
Service	27	13	12
Unemployed	99	78	66
Agricultural	8	17	14
Skilled	75	78	118
Semi-skilled	115	84	84
Labor	131	115	112
Totals	618	478	478



COMMUNITY LEADERS AID GIBSON... Nominating petitions for Councilman John S. Gibson are being circulated in all sections of the 15th District today by community leaders from six sections of the area. This group obtained petitions for the councilman Monday from City Clerk Walter C. Peterson, shown here with Councilman Gibson. Shown above they are, left to right, Mrs. Gilbert Van Camp and Mrs. Vernon Balliff of San Pedro; Mrs. W. C. Sidwell, Shoestring Strip; Mrs. Frances Hencel, Harbor City; Edward Warren, Watts; Elery McClung, South Los Angeles and Lloyd Menveg of Wilmington.

Dow to Employ 85 Persons in Full Operation

The Dow Chemical Co., which is building a huge plant on a 53-acre plot on Crenshaw Blvd. near 203rd St., will employ approximately 85 persons when completed, according to the public relations department of the new local industry.

Foundation forms for a four-story production building, a large warehouse and spacious office and employee quarters were removed this week and construction of floors and walls will begin immediately, a company spokesman on the site said this week.

Russell L. Curtis, company vice-president and general manager of the Western Division, announced the plant is to include equipment for the manufacture of plastic granules (the raw material used in the manufacture of thousands of household items, toys, and industrial parts) in a variety of colors, in addition to clear uncolored material.

The plant is scheduled for completion in early fall.

Employers Told Wage Reports Due by Jan. 31

Saturday, Jan. 31, 1953 is the deadline for filing California unemployment insurance wage reports and contribution returns covering the fourth quarter of 1952, E. L. Funder, auditor in charge for the State Department of Employment in Long Beach, has reminded employers.

Penalty and interest charges will be added to the amount of contributions if the report is filed after the deadline, Funder said. Employers needing assistance in preparing their returns may contact Funder at 1315 Pine Ave., Long Beach, upstairs, or by telephoning Long Beach 704-441.

\$17,000,000 Spent Here In '52 Not Counting Food

An estimated \$17,000,000—not counting food, was spent in Torrance during the last year.

Such was the figure jotted down by City Hall officials last week upon completing a "pencil estimate" of the monies spent here in 1952. Basis was the amount of sales tax collected by the city, which is 1/2 of one per cent.

A city hall official said that the city can expect to collect \$80,000 to \$85,000 when the final December collections are turned in. The actual amount of sales will not be determinable until mid-February when the local merchants will have completed their calculations of their December sales.

The city does not collect sales tax on food.

Footpads Keep North Torrance Residents Aroused with Forays

Someone has been making a number of impromptu visits to residences in North Torrance, according to Torrance police. Mrs. Phurzel Brewer, of 2612 W. 178th St., told police that a stranger came to her door about 9:30 p.m. Saturday and asked, "Where's my wife?" After being shoed away, he returned in a few minutes with the same question. He was gone when police arrived.

A few hours later, at 2:50 a.m. Sunday, David Carrell, of 16931 Osage St., told police he awakened to find a man in his house. He got up and chased him up the street, but lost him in the dark.

About 25 minutes later, Mrs. Frank Meedman, of 4175 W. 172nd St., told police she awakened to find a man in her house. He fled when she got up. She told police that her purse, a checkbook, and some money were missing. The man had disappeared into the dark night when police arrived.

Iris Society to Meet At Alondra Sunday Noon

The California Iris Society will meet at a special meeting Sunday noon, Jan. 18, to make floor plans for the coming Iris show. The meeting will be held at the Alondra Park Community Hall, according to Mrs. Elsa F. Stone, chairman of the group.

Spot Zoning Seen As Best Solution to Housing Problem

"Spot zoning," not a blanket ban against homes with less than 1000 square feet, is the basis of a recommended course of action sent to the planning Commission this week by Howard J. Percy, president of the Torrance-Lomita Realty Board.

Percy said the Board was aware of the Commission's problem in attempting to arrive at a fair and equitable law that will protect property owners from having cheaper housing built next to an expensive home.

To attempt to control the type of home built here by limiting them to 1000 square feet, claims the board, "would create a hardship on the working man of which Torrance area is largely composed." In his letter Percy stated that to enforce the 1000-square-foot minimum would cause considerable wrangling and would subject the city to considerable expense and possible law suits.

The board suggests that single-family residences be divided into three groups: R-1—800 square feet or less; R-1A—800 to 1000 square feet; and R-1D—1000 square feet and up. It was recommended that all homes have garages.

He claims that life insurance companies and many other lending organizations shy away from Torrance due to the fact that the city has no protection for owners of the more expensive homes.

He cites these examples: On Post Ave. there are \$35,000 homes adjacent to \$10,000 homes; on Juniper Ave., \$7000 homes have been built next to \$12,000 homes.

He recommended a tightening of the building code regarding cement slab houses that should conform to FHA specifications.

Percy pointed out that according to statistics given by the Veterans Administration and the FHA, the average house under construction or that which has been constructed in the past six years will average about 800 square feet—not including the garage.

He also says that some of the single-family residences be divided into three groups: R-1—800 square feet or less; R-1A—800 to 1000 square feet; and R-1D—1000 square feet and up. It was recommended that all homes have garages.

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GETTIN' 'EM WHILE THEY'RE HOT... Cubs of Packs 241-C and 228-C line up for a serving of hot cakes and sausage at a breakfast staged on the parking lot of Jim Dandy Market Saturday morning. Serving the hungry boys, part of a crowd of 1600 which attended the affair are (left to right) Mrs. Ethel Williams, M. L. Modeland, manager of the super market, and Bill Burke.

Flashing Stops Ordered for Hickory, Maple

Flashing stop signs will be installed on Torrance Blvd. at the intersections of Hickory and Maple, Chief of Police John H. Stroh said yesterday.

Chief Stroh said the lighted signs had been "on order" for some time, but that the control boxes were hard to obtain. He indicated that arrival of the equipment was expected soon.

The two stop signs were targets of comment Tuesday evening when about 150 Torrance Gardens and Plaza homeowners met at the Fern Elementary School to organize a homeowners' association.

Cubs Feed 1600 At First Annual 'Cake Breakfast

Approximately 1600 hungry Torrance residents ate out Saturday morning—out behind the Jim Dandy Market, that is.

From 7 a.m. until noon the hungry line of breakfasters filed past a line of griddles turning out hot cakes and sausage during the Cub Scouts' first annual breakfast.

Serving as chief cook, and bottle washer for the event was M. L. Modeland, manager of the huge super market at Crenshaw and Torrance Blvds. Modeland arranged with Bill Burke of the Sperry Division of the General Mills Corp. for pancake mix, and Mrs. Ethel Williams of Golden State Dairies for milk. Sausage for the meat department of the market.

Other firms giving the Cubs a helping hand were Folgers Coffee, Bing Crosby Minutic Maid Orange Juice, Dude Ranch Syrups, Kern's Jams and Cuisinon Toast.

The entire feed was in charge of Mrs. Billie Robertson and under the sponsorship of Cub Packs 241-C with Luke Nickol as Cubmaster, and 228-C headed by Bob Cooper.

Shrine Club To Install New Officers

Robert E. Brady, associated with the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power for 30 years, will be installed president of the South Bay Shrine Club Saturday, Jan. 31, at the Westport Beach Club, Playa del Rey.

Recently installed Illustrious Potentate Arch L. Field of Al Malakah Temple, AAOONS, will be installing officer. Accompanying Potentate Field will be members of the Divan and delegations from the uniformed bodies from the Los Angeles temple.

Logan R. Cotton, Redondo potentate's ambassador, will be master of ceremonies.

Other officers to be installed with Brady are Vice Presidents Dean Johnston, Redondo; Otto B. Willett, Hollywood Riviera; and Robert J. Rosevear, Manhattan.

Secretary-Treasurer Carl J. Oppel, Manhattan and Col. James C. Bell, Redondo, chaplain.

Brady, a resident of the South Bay for eight years and now residing at 2007 Circle Dr., Hermosa, is a member of Inyo Lodge 221, P&AM, Independence, Calif., Los Angeles Chapter 33, RAM, Southern California Council 35, F&SM; Golden West Com-mandery 43, and Al Malakah Temple. He is also a member of Al Malakah's Golden B.O.O. Patrol.

The South Bay Shrine Club is composed of Shriners from Redondo, Hermosa, Manhattan, El Segundo, Hawthorne, Hollywood Riviera, Palos Verdes, Rolling Hills and Portuguese Bend.

The installation party is open to all Shriners, their ladies and guests, but reservations must be made through one of the officers.

Other firms giving the Cubs a helping hand were Folgers Coffee, Bing Crosby Minutic Maid Orange Juice, Dude Ranch Syrups, Kern's Jams and Cuisinon Toast.

Notes on Narbonne

Gauchos to Present Athletic Awards

Editor's Note: Beginning this week a new feature will appear under the heading "Notes on Narbonne." This column is to be written by Adrienne Sidwell, a student at Narbonne High School.

The author invites students to contact her either at school or at home, Lomita 1810-J, if they have a news event they would like publicized in her column. The Herald Publications, of which this newspaper is one, welcomes Miss Sidwell to its family of correspondents.

By ADRIENNE SIDWELL

Well, things have really been popping at dear ole Narbonne since returning from a much appreciated vacation. Everybody seems to have a lot of stored up energy.

Tonight is the night! Of what? Why, the Lettermen's banquet of course! The announcement of the new officers, letter winners, and other important athletic awards will be made tonight.

Marlene Schildmeyer will be installed as president at the formal Girls' League installation to be held this afternoon in the auditorium.

Patii Swenson, who formerly held this office, is to be congratulated for her marvelous work she has done for the Girls' League. All new G.L. officers will be installed, including vice-president, Don Ann Long.

Also on the agenda for today at this event, will be the convocation of the girl faculty each of the academic departments, who will be honored.

Congratulations to Dean Demonske, Narbonne's new student body president. Dean will be assisted by George Bell, as new vice-president, and secretary Barbara Calknell. We really have a wonderful bunch of kids on the student council this semester.

Who said that "Women are the weaker sex"? For the second time in Narbonne's history, we have a girl for Junior High president. Her name is Iris Nydger, and cute too!

The announcement of popular Joyce Bernhardt as the new GAA president and Don Ann Long as Lettermen's president were made along with the other officers at the semi-annual GAA banquet held last Friday evening.

Some of the other new officers are: Mary Helen Briley, playday chairman; Virginia Buchanan, vice-president; and secretary, Patii Smith.

Chris Nelson, the outgoing president, was presented the President's Plaque. She really deserves it. The GAA has grown a lot during Chris' reign.

The GAA Honor Plaque was awarded to Sarah's Halling, who is outgoing Lettermen's president. After the banquet, all the B-12's and A-12's met at Joyce Bernhardt's house for a slumber party and believe me, it was far from what the name implies! They were "kinda crowded" in the living room. "Say, my husband had been indulging in massive potatoes of alcoholic beverages for last few days and due to this is in a pugnacious state of euphoria."

Police to Issue New Bike Tabs Here Tomorrow

Bicycle tags for owners of bikes in Torrance will be issued tomorrow afternoon, Jan. 16, at the Torrance Police station between 3 p.m. and 5 p.m., Chief J. H. Stroh reminded bike owners yesterday.

Persons seeking the 1953 licenses must bring the bikes to the station, Chief Stroh said. New licenses will cost 50 cents, New licenses will cost 50 cents, renewals 25 cents.

At a later date, officers will visit schools throughout Torrance to complete the registrations.

Police Credit Euphoria To Massive Potatoes

The calls which come daily to the Torrance Police Department cover a multitude of activities and the reactions of the officers are oftentimes as varied as the range of calls.

The call of a frightened woman recently, who told police that her husband had been drinking for several days and that she was afraid of him went onto the log thus: "Say, my husband had been indulging in massive potatoes of alcoholic beverages for last few days and due to this is in a pugnacious state of euphoria."