

# Man, 72, Claims Bride Bilked Him of Life's Savings



# FBI SEEKS TWO EX-CONVICTS FOR DARING \$30,000 HOLDUP

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### Plan to Move Civic Center Wins Support

A petition containing names of 97 businessmen and property owners in the central area protesting the city's plan to relocate the civic center was presented to the city council Tuesday night and immediately countered with a list containing 784 signatures of residents of Torrance who favor the move.

The 784 signers termed the paper containing their signatures a "vote of confidence" endorsing the council's plan to move the civic center to a 30-acre tract near Torrance Blvd. and Madrona Ave. The council has already instructed the city manager to proceed with the negotiations for the purchase of the land for \$120,000.

Opponents of the move stated in their petition that they had pioneered the present business district and that they should have been consulted before the council went ahead with their plan.

City Manager George Stevens is at present completing arrangements for a meeting with the businessmen group and the council may discuss the results of this meeting at its next agenda meeting, Wednesday night.

Signers of the businessmen's petition stated that they were not in favor of the relocation of the present city hall and other municipal offices because such a move would be injurious to the present businesses and property owners in the central district.

City Manager Stevens had said earlier that he believed that if the city is to use foresight in looking to the time that Torrance would be a city of 100,000 population, it should act now to purchase unimproved property. "If we wait until we have to condemn property, the cost will jump 10 times what it would cost us now," he said.

He went on to state that, although the need for the new civic center is urgent, he would like to see the city (Continued on Page 2)



THE MUNIZ TWINS, ARLEEN AND IRENE, WITH SOCIAL WORKER BERNICE BUTTS. Outlook on Life Dimmed by Fate

### Someone Helps

## Future Holds Little For Twins Unless...

By JACK O. BALDWIN

The doctors were right—this is the kind of a story that is always hard to write.

It is a story about the 15-month old Muniz twins who need help. Perhaps your help. The twin girls, Arleen and Irene, need someone to play with them an hour a day. They need someone to teach them how to sit up. They need someone who will get down on the floor and play with them. Someone who will hand them their baby toys when they are out of reach. The twins have more than the average disadvantages of ordinary 15-month old babies.

They are blind. They are suffering from a malady known as Retrolental Fibroplasia for which there is no known cure. According to doctors of the Torrance Health Clinic at the Los Angeles County Health Center on Carson St. the congenital deformity is usually found only among premature babies.

The need for someone to play with the children is to give them as many of the usual experiences of babyhood as possible so they will be able to develop normally. Mrs. Mary Muniz finds it difficult to give her twin daughters the attention they deserve. There are eight children in the family counting the twins. Another is soon to arrive.

The doctors are reluctant to ask Mrs. Muniz to do much lifting—they wish her to do as much as possible. (Continued on Page 2)

## Alden Pleads Guilty To Embezzlement

Agents of the FBI launched a nation-wide manhunt this week for two ex-convicts, both Torrance residents, after a third suspect now in jail indicated the ex-cons were involved in the recent \$30,000 holdup here.

Wanted for questioning are Paul Franks, 32, of 1627 W. 203rd St., a parolee from a Pennsylvania penitentiary where he served a term for larceny, and Don Madlung, 24, of 1846 Cabrillo Ave., who served a sentence in a Utah prison for wife desertion, according to Det. Capt. Ernie Ashton of the Torrance Police Department.

### 'Railroaded'

## New Home Tract Park Assessment Law Passes, 3-2

A city law providing for a \$100 assessment per acre in new home tracts to provide for future park and recreation sites passed the City Council Tuesday night, despite charges by one of the councilmen that the measure was being "railroaded."

Councilman Nick Drale charged his colleagues with railroaded the bill and that it was discriminatory against sub-dividers and new residents.

Law Blackballed Councilman Victor Benstead blackballed the new ordinance also. He said that the city can't afford to care for the parks if it now owns, much less care for any more new ones. He indicated he would be in favor of the ordinance if the funds would be earmarked for a swimming pool which he claims has been promised the kids of Torrance for 20 years. Drale also stated he would vote for the ordinance if the funds were so earmarked.

The ordinance passed its first reading with Mayor Mervyn Schwab, and Councilman Willys Blount and Harvey Spelman voting "yes" and Drale and Benstead casting "no" votes.

Purpose of the ordinance is to provide funds for the purchase of park sites and recreation areas among new home tracts. Proponents of the bill claim that long-time residents are forced to pay, and pay again to buy park sites for newcomers who demand the parks shortly after settling in their new homes.

City Manager George W. Stevens expressed the opinion earlier that he thought it only fair that the new residents pay for the parks they were to use. He said the tax levy of approximately \$25 per home would hardly block anybody from buying a \$7000 to \$11,000 new home, use.

The ex-credit manager said he would not seek a bail bond since it would cost \$250. He said his wife and three children could put the money to better use.

He is to appear in a Long Beach Superior Court on April 23 for trial. Bail for both Alden and McNally was set at \$2500, according to Police Chief John Stroth.

McNally's alleged confession, he and Madlung slugged Alden, manager of the credit union, then sped from the scene in a car driven by Franks. The jailed ex-convict said the trio left the car in a Long Beach garage, purchased a 1950 automobile and drove to Tijuana. They returned to Los Angeles where the trio split up with McNally coming to Torrance last Saturday and the other two leaving for the east.

The FBI is seeking the men on a charge of fleeing to avoid prosecution.

Alden who was robbed on April 2 as he returned to his office with the \$30,000 in a brief case pleaded guilty to embezzlement after James Lee, an officer of the employee's credit group, signed a complaint against the 35-year old Alden.

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## Man Who Loved to Go Barefooted Sues to Recover \$23,000, Home

Walter Shumaker, who used to take off his shoes each spring and leave them off until late fall, had to put them back on yesterday when he went to court in an attempt to recover \$23,000 which he claims his Mexican-wed wife of 72 fled him out of during a "lapse of memory."

Shumaker, himself 72 years of age, has been living in New Mexico with a friend since he escaped from a sanitarium where, he charges in his complaint, his wife sent him a short time after they were married.

Remembers Nothing The nature-loving retired watchmaker claims he remembers nothing of going to Tijuana in September of 1951 and marrying Edith Mae Foster of Redondo Beach, whom he charges bilked him out of his former home at 1605 Elm Ave., two vacant lots, and some stocks, war bonds, and other securities.

Through his attorneys, Robert Hegen and Hymen O. Danoff, both of Los Angeles, the elderly bridegroom claims that Mrs. Shumaker, knowing that he was subject to periods of memory loss, "schemed" to separate him from his only source of income—interest from his investments.

Funds Exhausted According to Shumaker's attorneys, Mrs. Shumaker claims she spent all the money providing medical care for her husband and that the funds have been exhausted "doing what was best for Walter."

The complaint charges that Mrs. Shumaker obtained a power of attorney from her husband and then while he was confined to a sanitarium sold the two lots to Charles Rippy, prominent local attorney. Meanwhile, Rippy constructed a house on one of the lots. Shumaker's attorneys said they have named Rippy as one of the defendants and would seek a half interest in the home he constructed on their client's lot.

Went Without Shoes The Los Angeles attorneys stated Mrs. Shumaker claims she had her husband confined to a sanitarium because he wandered about the neighborhood, drank to excess, and went barefooted. The case was "on calendar" yesterday in the Superior Court of Los Angeles.

## Paul Diamond Elected to C of C Board

Paul Diamond, operator of the Gay Shop, was named to fill the vacancy of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce board of directors created last month by the death of Herald Publisher Grover C. Whyte.

Diamond's appointment was for the unexpired term and will terminate at the end of this year, according to Chamber Secretary Dale Isenberg.

Fay Parks was appointed to the Citizens Award Committee to succeed the late Mr. Whyte.

## Police Recover \$2000 Worth Of Stolen Gems

Recovered yesterday afternoon by Det. Capt. Ernie Ashton was jewelry valued at approximately \$2000 which had been missing since March 16 when thieves stole the auto of Army Major James Barrett from the street in front of his residence at 455 Palos Verdes Blvd.

Still missing, according to Captain Ashton, is a bracelet valued at \$2000 which the suspects admitted they "threw away because we thought it was junk."

The latest haul in the jewels was made late yesterday after Captain Ashton had returned from Newport Beach with John (Continued on Page 2)

## Air Commission To Probe Buzzers

By REID BUNDY

Plans were being completed yesterday for the regular monthly meeting of the California Aeronautical Commission which will be held in the City Hall Court Room at 10 a.m. next Monday to hear complaints of "buzzing" by planes flying out of Torrance Municipal Airport.

Four members of the Commission who will be here include John Felton Turner, chairman of the group and an Oakland attorney; Norman Larson, a Burbank aircraft sales firm official; Forrest Fiorini, a Turlock rancher; and Earl Prudner, vice-president of Ryan Aeronautical Co. of San Diego.

Also slated to be present are B. M. Doolin, State Director of Aeronautics, and Robert M. Byrne, staff member of the Commission.

Protests Filed The Commissioners decided to have their regular meeting here this month after repeated protests have been filed with state officials ranging from Assemblymen to Governor Earl Warren.

Previous hearings have produced a clean bill of health for operations at the Torrance Municipal Airport, and officials stated recently that it was among the safest operated fields in the state. A small Lomita group has continued, in spite of these reports, to protest the operation as hazardous.

Said Well-Regulated "We have made every attempt to enforce good flying practices at the airport and we mean to continue," City Manager George Stevens said yesterday. He pointed out that the airport was a great asset (Continued on Page 2)

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