MISS USA TO CROWN TORRANCE QUEEN

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QUEEN TO CROWN QUEEN . . . Beautiful Myrna Hansen, Miss USA, will attend local queen coronation to place crown upon the prettiest girl in the 1953 Miss Torrance Contest on Aug. 18.

24 Beauties to Vie For Queen Title

Miss USA, number two runner-up in the recent Miss Universe Contest, will attend the Miss Torrance of 1953 contest to crown the winner of the local beauty pageant, it was announced this week by W. E. Bowen, president of the Torrance Area Youth Bands, Inc., sponsors of the contest.

Myrna Hansen, (Miss USA), now under contract to Universal International Studios, also will act as one of the judges. She will be assisted by Oscar Meinhardt, producer of the Miss Universe Pageant; Barbara Blakeley, beauty consultant to the pageant, and Paul Masterson, international disc jockey.

24 to Vie

Vying for the crown now worn by Shirley White will be 24 local beauties. The winner is to be flown to Las Vegas for a week-end at the Thunderbird Hotel.

With the closing of the entries at 5 p.m. on Monday, the final list of contestants and their sponsors include:

Beverly Dahlin, 18, Torrance Optimist Club; Pat Gaide, 17, Torrance Cycle and Sports Shop; Ann Leo, 16, Joslin Lumber Co.; Pat Pierce, 16, Crest Furniture Co.; Theresa Joyce Simon, 18, Torrance Loan and Jewelry Co.; Toni Forella, 16, Torrance Flower Shop; Shirlee R. Salzman, 18, Benson's Shops; Shirley Lostlen, 16, no sponsor; Norma Pierce, 16, Kettler Knolls Drugs; Johanne Parker, 16, no sponsor.

STILL MORE

Sandra Lee Constance, 16, La Galeria; Jo Ann Harlan, 16, A-1 Photo; Aline Sparks, 18, Torrance Heating and Appliance; Frieda Kittrell, 17, B&R Cleaners; Ella Mae McLeod, 16, The Gay Shop; Dolores Patronsky, 16, Daniels Cafe; Gail Thompson, 17, J. J. Newberry; Maureen Monahan, 18, Currie's; Betty Weiler, 16, Trend O'Fashion; Jo Ann Howard, 18, Safety Mortgage Co.; Ann Firlit, 16, Photo Arts Studio; Mary Ann Notman, 16, Lawson's Jewelers; Karen Dean, 20, Marilyn's Dress Shop, and Margaret Epetonio, 15, Western Auto Supply.

Thieves Hit Market Twice In Two Days

Thieves struck the Greater Torrance Market twice within two days this week, assaulting a woman clerk during a heist of two cases of beer, Roy Borg, manager reported to Torrance police on Monday.

On Sunday thieves looted the storeroom of the market, located at 2153 Torrance Blvd., taking 36 cartons of cigarettes. Borg noticed the loss, which he fixed at $70, when he opened the market on Monday morning.

Later the same day Mrs. Edna Thompson, a clerk, noticed two men, each about 28 years of age, lugging two cases out of the store and into their waiting automobile. She approached the men as they were about to take off in their getaway car. One of the men leaned out the window and shoved the clerk off the running board. "Get out of here," he shouted at her as his partner dropped the car into gear and sped down an alley.

Borg told police he thought the two cases contained beer, but would not be certain until he took an inventory.

Auto Crash Injures Three

A Torrance family of three were shaken up and slightly injured when their car rammed into a parked auto on Carson St. near Normandie Ave. over the week-end.

John Simmons, 38, of 1742-A Cabrillo Ave., the driver, his wife Betty Faye, 36, and their daughter Betty Jean., 16, were treated for cuts and bruises at Harbor General Hospital and later released.

Highway and Tape Are Blood Red

An Open Letter to Councilman Gibson

Councilman John S. Gibson
President, Los Angeles City Council.
Hon. Mr. Gibson:

If you should ever have the misfortune to have an automobile accident on Western Ave. in this area, may we suggest you have it on the west side of the street—Torrance's side.

You'll get better ambulance service, quicker police assistance, and suffer less mental anguish while officers unwind yards of red tape.

It is a deplorable situation that injured persons, bleeding and suffering the pain of broken bones, should be made to lie on the glass-splattered street while waiting as long as 30 to 45 minutes for a Los Angeles City ambulance to roll on the call. This happens not once in a blue moon but at almost EVERY accident that happens on the east side of Western Ave.—Los Angeles side.

On many occasions (and this is borne out by accounts related by our own staff reporters, police records, and individual complaints) Torrance police are summoned to the scene, arriving minutes ahead of traffic units from your own city. They can do little to assist the injured, they can not move the wrecked autos, they can not clear the busy street of the traffic hazard because they have been informed by Los Angeles traffic officers to "LAY OFF" because the accident was on the east side of the middle line.

When a child is lying screaming in pain and blood trickles from its lips who cares on which side of the double line the accident took place? If this were your child how would you feel to kneel over it, shading its eyes from the glaring sun, while officers argued about whose accident the case becomes?

This inhuman folly should be ended immediately.

It used to be that firemen would rush to the scene of a fire, then pull up and sit while they watched a house burn to the ground because it was a few feet over the boundary line. This situation has been corrected and now the fire departments are ready to respond to another community's call as quickly as they would to one of their own fires.

If cooperation between fire departments can be established why not so among police departments?

On a recent occasion we personally witnessed an incident where an injured man was forced to wait more than 30 minutes for a Los Angeles City ambulance. Finally in disgust an obliging witness volunteered to take the man to the hospital in a private car. We have attended several accidents on the Los Angeles side of Western Ave. and have heard the exchange of radio calls reporting that an ambulance was being dispatched from San Pedro, or from the more distant station at 77th St. and Broadway, and even from the Georgia Street Receiving Hospital more than 15 miles distant. Then, after the injured are picked up they must be carted the long distance back into the Georgia St. Receiving Hospital.

And the Harbor General Hospital is only a mile away.

And two ambulance services are stationed within a two to three minute run from any accident on Western Ave.

This we have seen. Two ambulances, (Jacobs and Figueredo) standing at the scene, available to transport the injured, but unable to move a single injured person because "Los Angeles will handle it with one of its own ambulances." These other ambulance services dare not touch the injured if they are lying in the street in the Los Angeles side under threat that they will have their licenses revoked!

What's the solution?

There are several. Either authorize Los Angeles to take all of Western Ave. or give it to Torrance. Our own Chief of Police favors such a plan. There are other workable agreements that can be arranged. But let's stop this mid-street bickering and petty arguing as long as there are injured to be treated.

We appeal to you as president of the Los Angeles City Council and because the area in question lies within the 15th councilmanic district which you represent.

An invitation is extended for any official to challenge the authenticity of any statement made in this editorial. We welcome the opportunity to prove it.

—J. O. B.

Wife Discovers Body Of Husband In Car

The body of an Air Force major, John E. Striplin, 47, was discovered by his wife yesterday morning in the family garage at 5429 Linda Drive in Seaside Ranchos.

Detectives Captain Ernie Ashton and Sgt. Percy Bennett listed the man's death as a suicide. Mrs. Kathryn Striplin, his wife, told detectives she and her husband had had a squabble Tuesday night over drinking and finances. She told the detectives he was worried about financial difficulties and believed that was the reason he took his own life. He left no note.

Striplin, an engineer at North American Aviation, was found slumped across the front seat of his late model Hudson sedan.

A vacuum cleaner hose carried carbon monoxide fumes from the exhaust pipe to the window, according to the detectives.

Mrs. Striplin said her husband left their home about 10 p.m. Tuesday night saying he was "going out." She retired about midnight and did not realize her husband had not returned until the next morning. She told detectives she looked in the garage to determine if the car was still there and it was then she found her husband's body.

The remains were taken to Stone and Myers Mortuary.

Chief Seeks Ban On Beach Orgies

(Herald Photo)

PLAY TALK . . . City Manager George Stevens (right) discusses the city's recreation problems with Harry Van Bellehem, who took over this week as director of the city's Recreation Department. He succeeds Frank Carpenter.

(See Story Pg. 2)

County Hands City Beach Police Job

Police Chief John Stroh said Tuesday he would ask the City Council for a city law which would put the quietus on all-night wild parties at Torrance Beach.

Several residents on the fringe of the popular night-time beach party spot on Torrance Beach complained to the council last Tuesday that gangs of beach-goers were making living on the seashore unbearable. They asked the council for action.

They got it Monday.

Local Jurisdiction

Oh that day Stroh was told by a spokesman in the office of the under-sheriff that it was the opinion of high officials of the county that the city had police jurisdiction over the beach area. The county maintains the beach and provides lifeguard stations, but claimed that it was Torrance's right and duty to police the area.

On several earlier occasions Torrance officers attempted to police the area but were told by life guards to "stay out" and that "we will handle it." However, the residents of the area claimed that it (the wild midnight wingdings) were not being handled and that cars roared in and out of the nearby parking area at all hours of the night and early morning.

'No Question'

In a letter written by J. G. Bowers, chief of detectives for the county, to H. L. Stallings, captain of the crime prevention bureau, and forwarded to Chief Stroh, Bowers stated that "there was no question as to Torrance's right to police the area since the beach was within the corporate limits of the city."

Stroh said he would ask the council at its agenda meeting last night to consider a city ordinance which would ban beach parties after 11 p.m. on Torrance's mile-long stretch of surf and sand. He had hopes that the law could be drafted and presented to the council for official action at its next meeting on Aug. 14.

Invitation Extended

Distraught homeowners in the area had invited news reporters and the City Council to spend a night in their homes to witness the nightly orgies. They complained that beer cans were tossed onto their porches, rocks heaved through their windows, and their yards raided by beach goers in search of firewood for bonfires. They stated they had attempted to sell their homes but that word of the wild, noisy parties "had got around" and that their homes were residential "white elephants."

Building Totals Continue Climb To New Record

Torrance building totals continued to set a record-breaking pace during July as permits valued at $1,687,840 were issued by the city's building department.

The July total pushed the 1953 construction total in the city to $16,404,598—just $2 million short of last year's all-time annual total of $18,487,232.

Still to come, according to city officials, are permits for the $9,000,000 gasoline processing unit being added to the General Petroleum refinery here.

Bechtel Corp., contractors for the project, have broken ground, and have material piled on the site waiting for the final approval of the plans.

Other major permits which might be issued this year include several industrial expansions which are in the planning stage, some large tracts, and a number of new industrial and commercial structures.

At this time last year, the total value of permits issued was only $12,116,254.

Tidwell To Answer Third Court Charge

Haskell Tidwell, former secretary of the San Pedro Retail Clerks Union, is due in court again tomorrow, this time to answer to a third charge that has been filed against him after he allegedly threatened Wally Elliott, president of the union, with a gun.

Tidwell, already charged with battery and disturbing the peace, will answer the charge of carrying a concealed weapon without a permit. The ousted union official entered not guilty pleas to the two earlier charges and asked for a jury trial in the South Bay Municipal Court.

Although Tidwell, who lives at 25124-B Broadwell Ave. in Harbor City is due to make a court appearance tomorrow, it is not expected that his case will go to trial. The case undoubtedly will be set over so that the jury may hear all three charges at one time.

The 41-year-old ex-union secretary-treasurer denies assaulting Elliott with a gun and told reporters he didn't even own a gun. However, when two Torrance police officers, Sgt. M. H. Porter and Patrolman Robert Wright, arrested Tidwell on June 30, he was holding a pistol in his hand when he answered the door, they reported.

Elliott signed a complaint against Tidwell after the former union leader visited Elliott's home, 2811 Olive St., on June 28 where an argument took place regarding union affairs. Elliott was one of several officials of the local union which brought charges against Tidwell which resulted in his dismissal by the international officers.

Tidwell through his attorney, Alexander Schulman, is bringing court action against the International officers to force his reinstatement as secretary-treasurer.

Score of Bikes To Be Sold at Police Auction

A score of unclaimed bicycles, recovered by the Torrance Police during the last year, will be sold at auction to the highest bidder on Aug. 14, according to Police Chief John Stroh.

To be sold also are several miscellaneous items including a typewriter and a quantity of household brooms.

The auction will be held at 2 p.m. at the Torrance Police Station, Stroh said.

(Herald Photo)

MORE CANDIDATES . . . Here are ten more girls who will vie for the title of Miss Torrance of 1953. Pictured are (left to right) Pat Gaide, Norma Pierce, Shirley Lostlan, Shirlee Salzman, Toni Forella, Pat Pierce, Beverly Dahlin, Theresa Simon, Johanne Parker, and Ann Leo. The Torrance Area Youth Band-sponsored contest will be held in the Civic Auditorium on Aug. 18.