

Blonde Norma Quine Crowned 'Miss Torrance of '55'

WALTERIAN LEAPS FROM CLIFF, LIVES



NEW FRIENDS . . . Ten-year-old Melanie Smiley, of 3101 Opal St., has a new-found friend this week—a pigeon. Melanie was startled this week when the pigeon lit on her back while she was in her back yard. Since that time, the two have been inseparable according to the girl's mother, Mrs. Thomas C. Smiley. The pigeon is banded and if anyone can identify it, he can have it, Mrs. Smiley says.

Woman Leaps 50 Feet into Water

A 33-year-old Torrance woman leaped 50 feet into the ocean from the observation platform of San Francisco's Cliff House, Friday, but was saved by three teenagers who happened to be swimming nearby.

Mrs. Faye Moerbeck, of 3559 Newton St., was visiting the restaurant with her mother, Mrs. Nora Condeley of San Francisco, when she apparently leaped into the ocean on an impulse, according to reports from San Francisco police.



MRS. FAYE MOERBECK
... Leaps from Cliff

Mrs. Condeley told police she and a bystander tried to restrain Mrs. Moerbeck, but her dress ripped and she fell, only narrowly missing sharp rocks. The water where she fell was rather deep.

Three teenagers swimming nearby pulled Mrs. Moerbeck from the water, but told police that they had to "fight her every inch of the way."

After being treated for immersion, she was taken to San Francisco Hospital for psychiatric observation.

Mrs. Moerbeck's husband, Peter, is a construction superintendent in Torrance. He indicated that she had been under medical treatment for the past year. Contacted by the family home, he was making plans to go to San Francisco this week-end.

Dresser Case Hearings to Be August 11

Hearings will be held Aug. 11 in South Bay Municipal Court in the case of James Dresser, former Torrance building inspection official, who is charged with illegally practicing architecture.

Judge Otto B. Willett had heard the case in June, but requested briefs from the defendant, and took the case under submission. Both Dresser and the State have filed briefs.

At that time, another count of illegally practicing architecture was dismissed, as was a charge that he practiced civil engineering without a license.

PIONEER RESIDENT HERE DIES

Mrs. May L. Hyde, long time resident of Torrance and wife of former Chamber of Commerce Secretary Carl Hyde, has died in Las Vegas, Nev., according to word received by friends here.

The Hydys were active in Torrance affairs for many years, coming to the town in 1920. Mr. Hyde was Chamber secretary for about eight and one-half years, and was instrumental in obtaining the annexation of many of the present areas in southwestern Torrance.

He was later assistant superintendent of charities for Los Angeles County, and for five years served as executive director of the State Department of Employment.

While in Torrance, the Hydys were active in the Christian Science Church. They moved to Las Vegas about 10 years ago, where Mr. Hyde is engaged in a concrete block business. He is a past president of the Torrance Rotary Club.

Torrance Owl

Somebody has invented an electronic ear which can distinguish 36,000 sounds in what appears to be a single note. This feat has never been performed before except by automobile mechanics.

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\$191,000 Federal Funds Given Torrance Hospital

Queen Wants To Be Lawyer After School

Norma Quine, 17, a willowy blonde who wants to be a lawyer some day, was crowned "Miss Torrance of 1954" before a predominantly female audience at the Civic Auditorium Friday evening.

A June graduate of Torrance High School, Norma is 5 ft. 8½ in. tall, weighs 104 lbs. and measures 38-24-36 from top to bottom. She was sponsored by Oscar Maples Ford Agency.

The beauty was crowned by Sandra Lea Constance, "Miss Torrance of 1954," who recently was named "Miss California" and was a semi-finalist in the "Miss Universe" contest in Long Beach.

Runnersup Listed
Runnersup to the winner, in order, were Shirlee Garner, 18, sponsored by the Torrance Mounted Police; Darleen Craig, 21, Torrance Flower Shop; Barbara Whitley, 17, Stadium Theater; and Jackie Galda, 16, Lewellen Press.



HER HIGHNESS . . . Queen Norma Quine, 17, seated, is flanked by left to right, runnersup Jackie Galda, 16, Barbara Whitley, 17, entertainer Anita Aros, violinist, Sandra Lea Constance, "Miss Torrance of 1954," who crowned the new queen, and runnersup Darleen Craig, 21, and Shirlee Garner, 18.

May Call For Bids By Fall

Torrance Memorial Hospital has been granted \$191,000 in federal funds to build two new wings and two surgical units on the local hospital, it was announced here yesterday by R. R. Smith and Don Findley, president and secretary of the hospital board.

Allocation of the funds, originally sought by the hospital several years ago, was recommended this week by the Hospital Advisory Council of California who is given allotment powers by the government for the funds. The decision to grant the funds to Torrance was made in San Francisco this week following a meeting attended by Smith and Findley who spoke in behalf of the grant.

To qualify for the funds, the Torrance Hospital Assn. must be able to put up twice the amount, Findley said.

Variance Granted
A land use variance to permit the construction has been granted by the city and plans for the expansion are now approved by the state, Findley said yesterday. Architect Merrill W. Baird of Glendale designed the new additions.

The hospital, which serves the entire South Bay area, was first built in 1924 as a memorial to Jared Sidney Torrance, founder of Torrance. His heirs put up the money for the hospital which is governed by the Torrance Hospital Assn., a non-profit corporation.

Planned additions to the hospital will provide for 12 additional surgical beds and 20 additional maternity beds, according to Findley, who has been secretary of the hospital's board of governors for 27 years. He said yesterday that bids for the expansion will probably be called for in about three months, and that the units would probably be ready for use by next summer.

A concerted fund-raising campaign is being planned to underwrite the costs of the \$874,000 project, Findley said.

Leases Sent To Airport Commission

There will be plenty of work for the newly-created Torrance Airport Commission when it meets for the first time next Wednesday night.

After organizational business is disposed of, the group will study two leases referred to it by the City Council. Pending are applications by Lawrence Batty and John Bickham for a drive-in restaurant at Pacific Coast Hwy. and Crenshaw Blvd., and Fred Beerup for a motel site at the entrance to the field.

Commissioners John Crain, Robert Hilborn, Robert Jahn, R. C. Herrick, and Jack E. White were recently appointed by the City Council. They will work with the Council Airport Committee, headed by Willys Blount.



JAMES H. BURCHETT JR.
... Cited for Heroism

Torrance Grad Wins Gold Medal

A rare award, given only once before, went to James H. Burchett Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. James H. Burchett Sr. of 1507 El Prado, last Wednesday for his outstanding heroism during a fire at Union Oil Co. in November, 1953.

The 24-year-old man, a graduate of Torrance High School who served for four years in the U. S. Navy, received the American Petroleum Institute Meritorious Safety Award for heroism and a gold medal for his brave efforts to save the life of an oil tank truck driver last Nov. 10.

Burchett and his fellow worker, Bobbie L. Phippen of 2352 W. 24th St., Lomita, dashed into a flaming area in the face of punishing heat when a tank truck exploded at the refinery. They extinguished the flaming clothing of Hubert Snell, truck driver, carried him to safety, and administered first aid treatment. Snell later died in a hospital.

Phippen also received a safety award and gold medal.

Shopping Bag Thieves Get \$5800 Cash

Two robbers left the Market Town market, 15107 Crenshaw Blvd., Thursday afternoon, with one of the most valuable shopping bags ever carried out of the store. It was loaded with money.

Two men accosted manager Merv Adelson shortly after an armored truck delivered \$5800 in cash to the store, he told sheriff's deputies. Adelson was carrying the money to his office when the pair threatened him with pistols. The money was placed in a shopping bag.

After being warned against calling for help, Adelson was locked in an icebox. The duo walked out of the store with the bag, and drove away in a car containing three other men, witnesses said.

Lennox deputies have a partial description of the men who held up Adelson.

FAIR QUEEN CANDIDATES TO APPEAR ON TV SHOW

The 12 candidates for queen of the Torrance Community Fair will appear on television next Wednesday night, as featured guests on Ford dealer Oscar Maples' half-hour program.

The show appears on Channel 13 at 8 p.m.

Jacqueline Pagac, Soroptimist candidate for the title, is currently leading the race. Turn-in of reports at the Chamber of Commerce is due Monday night, Aug. 2. Final turn-ins are due Aug. 9.

The queen will be determined before the fair opens on Aug. 11. The organization sponsoring the winner will receive its choice of spots for setting up a booth.

Local merchants will show their wares at the fair. Rides and amusements will be provided by the Pan American Amusement Co., while the Torrance Recreation Department will provide entertainment with nightly shows.

Reggie Dvorak, veteran showman and clown, will be in the streets before and during the fair to amuse Torranites.

A special kiddie matinee will be held on Saturday, Aug. 14. Prizes to be awarded at the fair include a seven-day, expense paid round trip for two to Hawaii. The winning queen will receive a trip to Mexico City.

CITY BANS TRUCK SALE OF PRODUCE

Produce trucks will no longer be allowed to peddle their wares along Torrance streets, City License Inspector Cy Weber has announced.

Acting in accordance with instructions issued by the city council, Weber said no more licenses of this type would be issued by the city. The action followed a complaint from the County Health Department.

Several such licenses have been issued recently, he said, since the city's license ordinance does not prohibit them.

County health regulations require that produce markets be equipped with a rat-proof floor and sanitary facilities.

WEATHER

Low clouds early this morning but otherwise sunny today with a high temperature around 85 in Torrance. In the weather prediction, according to the U. S. Weather Bureau.

The high temperatures in Torrance as the week ended were: Thursday—high 81, low 65; Friday—high 85, low 65; Saturday—high 84, low 67.