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Torrance Herald

OFFICE AND PLANT AT 1619 GRAMERCY AVE., TORRANCE

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FOUR-YEAR-OLD HANGS SELF ON SWING

A Penny for your Thoughts

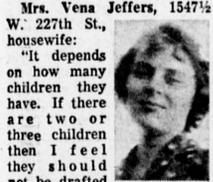


"Do you think married teenagers should be drafted?"

That was the question the HERALD's inquiring photographer asked several persons in Torrance this week. Their answers and pictures appear below.

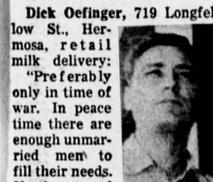
Mrs. Vena Jeffers, 1547½ W. 227th St., housewife:

"It depends on how many children they have. If there are two or three children then I feel they should not be drafted except in case of war."



Mrs. Thelma Clemens, 1546 W. 226th St., housewife:

"Yes, if they have no children. However, where there is a family involved, they shouldn't because the Army does not pay the amount of money it takes to support a family properly."



Dick Oefinger, 719 Longfellow St., Hermosa, retail milk delivery:

"Preferably only in time of war. In peace time there are enough unmarried men to fill their needs. If they need more men, then it isn't so bad to take a man without children; but in peace time it isn't right to take a man with a family."

Tom Howard, 24264 Neece Ave., retail clerk:

"Yes, I do. They are aware when they get married that they are going to have to serve, and marriage should not be used as a means of avoiding responsibility. The reason other teenagers are NOT married is that, because of a sense of responsibility, they are attempting to better their future before marrying and raising a family."

L. W. Webber, 1449½ W. 219th St., engineer:

"Sure they should. They have to fulfill their military obligation eventually, so they might as well do it as soon as possible before they start having children."

The Old Timer



"In the old days a man who lived money was a miser; nowadays he's a wonder!"

Suit Filed Extra Work Ban Fought

Court action to enjoin the city from enforcing provisions of an ordinance which prohibits outside employment by members of the city's police and fire departments was sought this week in a suit filed in Inglewood Superior Court.

The formal complaint, filed by Dean White and Leo Manning, members of the Torrance fire department, challenges the validity of the city's civil service ordinance which prohibits such outside work. The two firemen filed the suit on their own behalf and for "all similarly situated."

Part-time employment is necessary for support of their families and firemen and police officers have worked at jobs outside their city duties for many years, the suit contends.

Turkish Officer To Visit

Four highly placed officials of Turkey will make a quick visit to Torrance tomorrow during a tour of the United States, it was learned yesterday.

Heading the delegation will be Dr. Namik Gedik, minister of internal affairs for Turkey. In his party will be Cemal Goktan, director-general of internal security and a former governor of the province of Konya; Ferid Kubat, director of internal security, department of the ministry; Maj. Resit Mater, aide-de-camp to Dr. Gedik, and Nejat Sonmez, director, office of Turkish information, San Francisco.

Also accompanying the officials will be two Turkish security officers and two American security officers.

During their visit to Torrance tomorrow afternoon, the officials will be conducted on a tour of the city hall by City Manager George Stevens, and will later meet representatives of area newspapers at the Chamber of Commerce building. A dinner is being planned to follow the press conference.

Dr. Gedik and the other officials are touring the United States to observe security measures, the HERALD was told.



RESCUE EFFORTS . . . A member of the Torrance fire department rescue squad holds a face mask on four-year-old Sherry Ruggles in an effort to revive her after she was found hanging from a swing rope in the back yard of her babysitter's home Friday. She was later rushed to Harbor General Hospital, where a surgeon continued the life-saving efforts in vain. (Herald photo)

5000 Pills Found Pair Nabbed in Narcotics Haul

A Torrance man and a female companion were being held on suspicion of violating the Health and Safety Code yesterday after police became suspicious of their actions following an auto accident.

Patrick U. Smythe, 32, of 2108 Lincoln Ave., was booked on suspicion of using and possessing narcotics and an additional charge of burglary after Redondo Beach officers discovered more than 5000 narcotic pills and a hypodermic kit in the car in which the couple crashed.

Booked with him was Mrs. Irene Lois Koler, 33, of North Hollywood, who was taken to General Hospital.

Council to Hear More On Airport

Three developers who have made proposals for a nine-acre tract on the southeast corner of the city's airport at Crenshaw Blvd. and Pacific Coast Hwy. have been asked to return with more complete details of their proposal before the council on April 7.

A special meeting of the council was held Wednesday night to hear the three who have offered the city upward of \$25,000 a year in ground rental plus a percentage of the gross for the property.

Efforts Fail To Save Life

A four-year-old girl who became entangled in a length of rope hanging from a backyard swing and hanged herself died Friday afternoon more than four hours after the incident.

Little Sherry Ruggles, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Urban Luciano, of 18226 St. Andrews Place, was being cared for by Mrs. Shirley Viles, of 18532 St. Andrews Place, while her parents were employed at Hughes Aircraft in Culver City. Mrs. Viles, who is licensed to operate a day-care nursery, also kept the victim's brother, Charles Ruggles, 3, during the day.

INVESTIGATORS said Mrs. Viles discovered the tot after she had gone into the house to get a basket of laundry. She grabbed little "Sherry" and untangled the rope around her neck, and ran screaming to the front of the house where mouth-to-mouth breathing was started.

Fire Department resuscitators and an ambulance crew rushed to the scene to take over with oxygen and the girl was later taken to Harbor General Hospital when faint breathing action was noted. At Harbor General, a surgeon made an incision in her chest to massage the faintly beating heart.

ALL WAS in vain, however, as the tot died late Friday afternoon, more than four hours after the tragedy.

A cotton rope dangling from a backyard swing set after the incident marked the scene of the tragedy, but gave no clue as to how the child had got the rope around her neck.



SITTER SOBS OUT STORY . . . Mrs. Shirley Viles, who cared for the four-year-old hanging victim, tries to explain events but broke down and was unable to continue. She later gave her story to police. (Herald photo)

He's Just 10 Young Racer Cited

A 10-year-old race car driver suffered a broken leg Friday when his quarter-midget racer collided with an auto in south Torrance.

Terrance Fulford, of 5106 Lee St., also faces a hearing before juvenile authorities for driving on public streets without an operator's license, police said.

Investigating officers said young Fulford was injured when his small racing vehicle rammed into the side of an auto driven by Mrs. Ann Willis, 41, of 21213 Anza Ave., at the intersection of Lee St. and Elwood Drive.

Walteria School in Magazine

Western Family Outlook, new monthly magazine covering news and views of the 12 Western states, presents a pictorial feature on Torrance's Walteria Elementary School in the current issue.

Entitled "One-Room Schoolhouse," the article describes the three-year-old program of placing students of several grades in one classroom as "a heartening sign for educational traditionalists" and points out that the program has worked out so well in heightening students' interest in their curriculum that the multi-grade system has been expanded to other Torrance schools.

The article adds that "an overwhelming majority of parents, as well as the children themselves, would like it continued."

Torrance Superintendent of Schools J. H. Hull sums up the new-old idea by saying "the little red schoolhouse had something and we have recaptured it."

Ever Wonder How Easter Day Is Set?

Ever wonder how it is decided which date Easter will fall on in a particular year?

Traditionally, Easter comes the first Sunday following the first full moon after the first day of spring.

With the first day of spring last Saturday and the first full moon this past Tuesday, it is inevitable that Easter would fall today.