

# Man Tells of New Game Played With Toothpicks

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## Torrance Herald

OFFICE AND PLANT AT 1619 GRAMERCY AVE., TORRANCE

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45th Year—No. 58

TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, SUNDAY, JULY 19, 1959

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# SUSPECT ADMITS DRUG ROBBERY

### A Penny for your Thoughts

"How do you feel about the city's new plan to put a special tax on property owners to help finance the community's recreation program?"

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

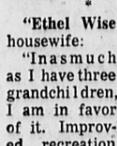
Mrs. Paul H. Goodley, 1442 W. Carson, housewife:

"I have only been here since July 1 and I feel that without investigating the recreation facilities currently available I am really in no position to make an intelligent answer."



RosaLee Stevens, 1617 W. 221st St., postal clerk:

"I am opposed to this at the present time because my taxes will be higher. However, later on when my baby is old enough to go to the parks, my feeling may change."



"Ethel Wise, 722 Amapola, housewife:

"Inasmuch as I have three grandchildren, I am in favor of it. Improved recreation facilities will make this city a better place for them to grow up in."



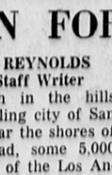
Mrs. Annabel Strobridge, 1634 W. 227th St., housewife:

"I'm in favor of it. My daughter is participating in the recreation program at Torrance Park this summer and I can see the benefit that she's deriving from it. I feel that all children benefit from organized recreation programs and proper facilities."



Chuck Reed, 21414 Howard Ave., electrician:

"I'm all for the recreation program. Despite my aversion to what I consider too many taxes already coming out of my pocket, I feel that this is one I don't mind shellin' out for. It's a good cause and will help the kids."



### Rules Explained

## Con Lesson Costs \$120

Everything was there but the softly playing violins Friday evening as a sharp trio played variations on an old theme for the benefit of a Torrance foundry worker. Remijio Hernandez, 46, of 16317 Gramercy, said he was waiting for a bus to Gardena when he noticed the trio standing nearby, absorbed in a novel game.

It went like this, he said: One of the men would stick a toothpick in his belt, then pull it out with a flourish, showing a few crumpled bills in his hand which seemingly came out with the toothpick.

NOTING that Hernandez was showing interest in the game, they approached and asked if he wanted to play.

"Sorry, I don't have any money," he told them. Their insistence finally induced him to open his wallet and show them. All he had was a paycheck for about \$120.

"That check is no good," one of the sporting gents said. "Oh, sure it is," Hernandez protested.

On and on the banter went. "It's no good," one of the trio insisted. "It is good," Hernandez maintained.

UPSHOT OF the debate was a \$50 bet that Hernandez couldn't get the check cashed. He did... putting the money in his shirt pocket and returning to the bus stop bench at Torrance Blvd. and Sartori.

There he showed the roll of bills to the doubters, probably muttering something about "You think you're smart."

One of the men grabbed the roll, and started to race away with it.

"I'll double it for you and be right back," he shouted over his shoulder.

HIS TWO companions stayed with Hernandez.

"I had better follow him," Hernandez said.

"No, he'll be back in a few minutes," the two men said.

After waiting a while, Hernandez moved again to follow the man with his money.

"You stay here and we'll go get him for you," one of the men volunteered.

"Now wait right here," his benefactors cautioned.

Two hours later Hernandez called police and passed his story on to them.

Police are looking for the trio... they'd like to see how that toothpick game works, too.

### Zoro, Pals Get Into Act At Assembly

Characters ranging from Zorro and an elephant to Little Red Riding Hood got into the act last Friday as Parkway Elementary School students put on an assembly, with each class showing their fellow students something of what they had been learning.

The assembly is a weekly occasion, with classes presenting a drama based on something they had been studying. Last Friday, Mrs. Lola Smith's kindergartners gave a poem, "An Elephant," while Mrs. Edna Hicks' class presented "Three Ducks and a Beehive." Mrs. Pearl Hensley's first graders gave "The Old Woman Who Lived in the Shoe," and Mrs. Shirley Henderson's first and second grade students presented "Little Red Riding Hood."

Pantomimes were given by Mrs. Jean Carter's second and third grade students, and John Lankford's fourth and fifth grade group. Larry Miller's fourth graders acted out the whitewashing scene from "Tom Sawyer."

### Ryan Receives Army Contract

A contract for nearly \$3.5 million for installation of Ryan electronic Doppler navigation equipment in the Grumman Mohawk turboprop observation plane has been awarded Ryan Aeronautical Co. by the U. S. Army Signal Supply Agency, T. Claude Ryan, president, announced today.

The order assures production of the Model 120A navigation set by the Ryan Electronics Division into the spring of 1960, and follows an earlier \$900,000 letter of intent under which the program was started.

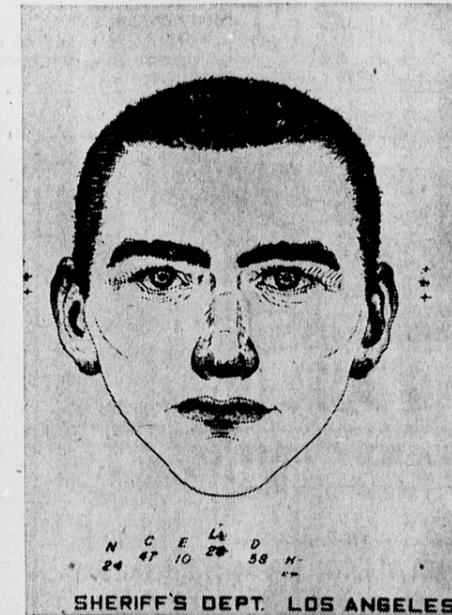
## Service Club, Youth Leader To Receive National Honors

A Torrance service club and a Waleria area civic leader will be honored by the National Recreation Assn. at a dinner Wednesday, according to Torrance Recreation Director Harry Van Bellehem.

Plaques from the association will be given to the Rotary

Club and to Mrs. Loring Bigelow, of 24804 Pittcain Way, during the 6:30 p.m. gathering at the Palms Restaurant.

The Rotary Club is being cited for the improvements its members made to two Torrance parks. In 1958, the group constructed six rock fire



SIMILARITY NOTED... The similarity in appearance between Stephen Randazzo (upper right) and Ralph L. Tommarello (lower right) led victims to identify the wrong man as the gunman in a holdup here last Sunday night. The sketch at left was put together by Los Angeles County sheriffs with their new Ident-Kit.



## 'Look Alikes' Held in Jail

Arrest of a third man, admittedly the gunman who took \$4000 in cash and about \$1700 in checks from a downtown drugstore employe last Sunday night, has apparently cleared up the robbery, according to Det. Sgt. Don Hamilton of the Torrance Police Department.

Arrested at his home in Fullerton Thursday evening was Ralph Louis Tommarello, 26, identified by the victims as the man who took the money from McCown's Drugs, 1327 El Prado.

ARRESTED earlier in Las Vegas were Stephen A. Randazzo, 19, of Inglewood, identified as a former assistant manager of the store, and Harry C. Artinian, 34, of Los Angeles. All three have been arraigned on charges of armed robbery and will be in South Bay Municipal Court here for preliminary hearing Tuesday.

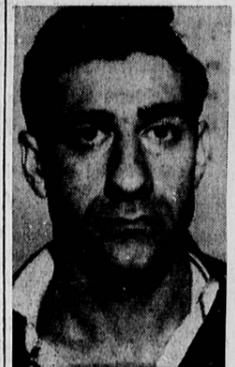
SGT. HAMILTON said Tommarello has admitted holding up 19-year-old James Cemore, assistant manager of the store,

and his 17-year-old wife, Judy Ellen. He apologized to Cemore for his actions when they met again at the local police station Friday.

The similarity in appearance between Randazzo and Tommarello led the victims to identify Randazzo as the gunman until Tommarello was brought before them.

INVESTIGATORS described the three men as inveterate gamblers and said Tommarello had sent \$1500 of his share of the haul back to New York to pay off a gambling debt he had incurred.

Fullerton police were notified by Hamilton that Tomma-



HELD IN ROBBERY... Harry C. Artinian of Los Angeles is held on a robbery charge after his arrest in Las Vegas this week. He is charged with being one of three implicated in the \$6000 robbery of a downtown drugstore here last Sunday evening.

rellow was in their city and officers were put on a stakeout there until Torrance police could arrive.

HAMILTON and Detectives Ralph Walker and Wally Nitz drove to Fullerton and made the arrest.

The three suspects are in city jail in lieu of \$5000 bail set by Judge Otto B. Willett.

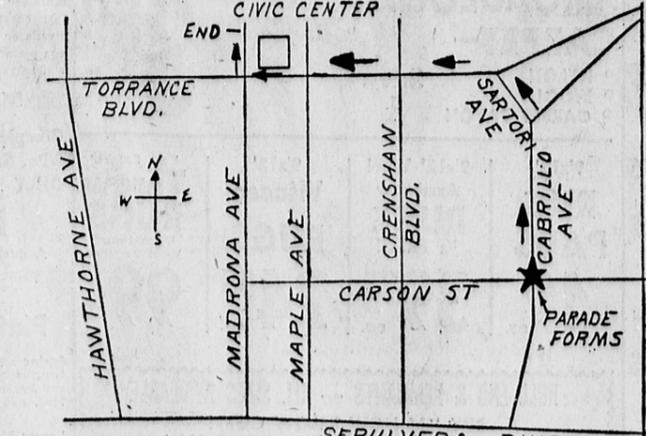
### Bus-Buddy Day At Scout Camp Aug. 5

Invitations will soon be mailed to business and civic leaders in Torrance, San Pedro, Gardena, Wilmington, and Lomita to attend the Annual Bus-Buddy outing of the Harbor District Boy Scouts of America.

Commander A. F. Benschmidt, district chairman, said the all-day trip will take place Wednesday, August 5. Busses will tour the Boy Scout camp at Lake Arrowhead, he added.

Commander Benschmidt said the full story of scouting will be explained and guests will inspect all the scout facilities and have luncheon with the scouts.

Fred W. Mill of Torrance is Chairman of the event, with Jim Rush of Gardena handling arrangements. Dick Loquam, scout executive for Harbor District is advisor, and Torrance Chamber of Commerce Manager Dick Fitzgerald is handling publicity.



PARADE ROUTE... Pictured above is the route of the third annual Rancho Days Parade which will begin at 6 p.m. Saturday. Following conclusion of the two-hour event, which will feature 115 entries, the midway area behind the Civic Center will be open.

## Plans Completed for Rancho Days Parade on Saturday

Final plans for the third annual Rancho Days parade were announced today by Lt. D. C. Cook, parade chairman. Climaxing the five-day celebration, the parade will take place at 6 p.m. Saturday. Lt. Governor Glenn Anderson will be grand marshal.

Included in the parade will be 115 entries, ranging from pom-pom girls to drill teams. Eleven bands will be featured.

Highlighting the parading equestrienne units to pass before the reviewing stand at Madrona and Torrance Blvd. during the two-hour event will be the golden palomino stallion, King Cortez, adorned with gold and silver spurs and chaps, who will be mounted by Ernest Specht.

Beginning at the intersection of Carson St. and Cabrillo Ave.,

the parade will continue along Cabrillo Ave. to Sartori Ave., where it will head towards Torrance Blvd. Following its termination at the Civic Center on Torrance Blvd., the midway area behind the Civic Center

will feature amusement rides, a wild animal circus, carnival food, and game booths.

Championship RCA rodeo performances are scheduled for Saturday and Sunday at 2 p.m.



LITTLE INDIANS... Jane Mullin, Noel Wescombe and Margaret and Walter Woolf put on an Indian act for the Mothers' and Daughters' doll show held in the Civic Auditorium Friday. Children made their own costumes in the Indian Lore and Crafts class of the Recreation Dept. directed by Miss Erika Muhl. (Herald photo)

## LAKE ARROWHEAD CAMP SITE HAVEN FOR 5000 BOY SCOUTS

By JERRY REYNOLDS  
HERALD Staff Writer  
Nestled high in the hills above the bustling city of San Bernardino, near the shores of Lake Arrowhead, some 5,000 boys, members of the Los Angeles Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America, will enjoy a week of camping, hiking, swimming, horseback riding and many other activities dur-

ing the summers to come. This year the Lake Arrowhead camp site is celebrating a decade of camping.

Among the many troops which will spend a week at the camp this summer are several troops from the Torrance area in the Harbor district. One of these troops, 948, from North Torrance, returned yesterday from Camp Pepperdine, one of

the three camps in the site.

THESE Torrance boys, along with nearly 500 others, enjoyed a stay at the Lake Arrowhead camp which was filled with many activities. In addition to the many exciting things which they did, they learned a great deal about the proper way to camp. Classes

(Continued on Page 3)

"Matrimony is the only state that allows a woman to work 18 hours a day."