

Trick or Treat

HALLOWE'EN BANDITS ROB STRUM'S

Rash Of Burglaries Hits Torrance Area

Two gunmen, sporting grotesque Hallowe'en masks, greeted Oscar Strumwasser owner of Strum's department store, and Sidney Weiss, clerk, with .45 calibre automatics Monday morning as Strumwasser and Weiss were about to open the store.

Instructed to go on inside and open the safe, Strumwasser did as he was told. He handed over about \$1000 cash and an undetermined amount of checks, according to reports made to Det. Capt. Ernie Ashton.

When the bandits had the loot, one of the suspects told the other:

"Tie them up. You know where the neckties are."

Face Down
At this point Weiss and Strumwasser were forced to lie face down on the floor with their hands tied behind them.

Stock Clerk Jerry Damron entered the store not suspecting what was going on, and he, too, was forced to lie down on the floor and was tied.

When the bandits left the scene, Weiss was the first to work his bonds off and immediately called police.

One of the bandits was said to be about six feet tall, the other between 5'5" to 5'8". The shorter one wore brown slacks and a light brown jacket. The taller one wore a red-checked mackinaw hat.

\$2100 Burglary

A rash of other burglaries broke out this week-end.

In a safe burglary at the Western drive-in, Western and Torrance blvd., suspects made off with a safe containing about \$2144 in cash and checks plus 70 bottles of whiskey, early Sunday morning.

Also hit either Saturday or Sunday was Alpert's Trend-Maker Furniture, 2153 Torrance blvd., where burglars made off with a safe containing less than \$500. The safe was found in a lot at 237th st. and Walnut.

Burglars also attacked Perfection Cleaners at Prairie and Redondo Beach blvd., Friday night. They drilled an opening through the roof, reached inside, and took a cigar box with the day's receipts.

Two Found Guilty Of Rape Here

Two men were found guilty of rape last week, according to Det. Capt. Ernie Ashton of the Torrance Police department.

James Sanchez, 26, of Redondo Beach, will come up for sentence and probation March 4, while Bradley Abner, 24, of 1606 W. 206th st., will come up February 26.

Sanchez was found guilty in a court trial by Judge Beach Vasey of the Long Beach Superior Court.

The case involved a woman whom he dragged into his car in Gardena, driving to the Victor tract where the rape took place.

Abner was found guilty by a jury for raping a woman with whom he was visiting when she refused his advances.

State Group To Investigate Lomita Issues

Controversial issues in Lomita will be investigated by a State Assembly committee Monday whose members will meet individually with the three local factions.

So stated Assemblyman Vincent Thomas who will be joined on the committee by Frank Bonelli, Seth Johnson, and Harold Levering.

The assemblymen represent the committees on municipal and county government; governmental efficiency and economy; and revenue and tax.

Meetings will be held in the American Legion hall at 1 p.m.



DEEJAYS AND FRIEND

The Big Five disc jockeys of KLAC find spinning a yarn with Gaye Wilson (Miss Torrance) as pleasant as spinning a platter. They are (l-r) Del Moore, Gene Norman, Alex Cooper, Bill Bradley and Dick Haynes.

Editorial

LET'S ELECT OUR OWN MAYOR

In the light of Torrance's tremendous growth two vital changes should be made now in our local government.

One involves increasing the number of councilmen. The other is having the mayor elected directly by the voters rather than by a majority vote of the council.

Torrance has now reached an estimated population of 86,000. If the City Council were expanded to seven members the increasing work load could be distributed and lightened; residents would receive better representation; and there would be less chance that controversial issues would be decided by one vote.

We believe, too, that the mayor should be directly responsible to the people and therefore elected directly.

As matters stand now, the mayor remains mayor only as long as the majority of the council so decide.

This creates a serious problem. There are times when he must go along with the councilmen who elected him rather than vote his conviction, if he is to remain in office.

If he were elected at large, he would not be faced with these conflicting loyalties.

He would serve a definite term (four years), directly responsible only to the voters.

Under the proposed system, voters would elect six councilmen and one mayor. The mayor would be the presiding officer and vote only in case of a tie.

We believe that such a change would be in the best interests of the city.

Our Letters to the Editor column welcomes comments on this important issue.

Three Trips To Las Vegas Offered By Merchants

Three couples will have a chance to spend three nights and two days in Las Vegas, as part of the Dollar Day promotional activities sponsored by the Retail Merchants division of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce.

The couples will fly to Las Vegas through the courtesy of Western Airlines.

Entry blanks may be obtained from participating merchants, who represent the leading stores in town.

The Dollar Day week-end will be held February 21-23, and winners will be announced Saturday, February 23.

There are no other requirements for participating except to fill out one of the blanks.



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DEEJAYS TO HONOR TORRANCE

"Bill Bradley, Del Moore, Dick Haynes, Alex Cooper and Gene Norman, the Big Five disc jockeys of KLAC will air "Salute to Torrance" week, February 18 to 23, in an effort to familiarize Southern California with the growth and progress of one of the country's fastest growing communities, as well as help Torrance residents learn more about their city.

Alternate newscasts, heard hourly on KLAC, will feature progress reports and civic information.

In conjunction with KLAC's promotion, the Torrance Chamber of Commerce has proclaimed the same week "KLAC Week," and all merchants will display special signs calling attention to station's special week in connection with Torrance's KLAC Sale Week.

"We hope," says Del Moore, spokesman for the Big Five, "we will all get to know the city of Torrance and its residents better during the week. And one of the best ways is to write and tell us what favorite tunes you have and we will be happy to play them."

Governor Of Samoa Visits Here

Gov. and Mrs. Peter Tall Coleman of Samoa visited with a sister in Torrance last week and also attended festivities in their honor at El Camino college.

While here, the governor and his wife visited his sister, Mrs. Max Hanemann, 22819 Madrona ave.

Gov. and Mrs. Coleman were on their way back to Samoa from attending the inaugural ceremonies in Washington, DC.

Samoa, the governor pointed out, has a climate similar to that of Los Angeles.

Life, on the island, is much more leisurely and freer than here. Crime is virtually nonexistent. Samoa's population is 21,000.

There are no traffic problems since there are only 150 cars on the island. Samoans, he said, are a happy, trusting and hospitable people.

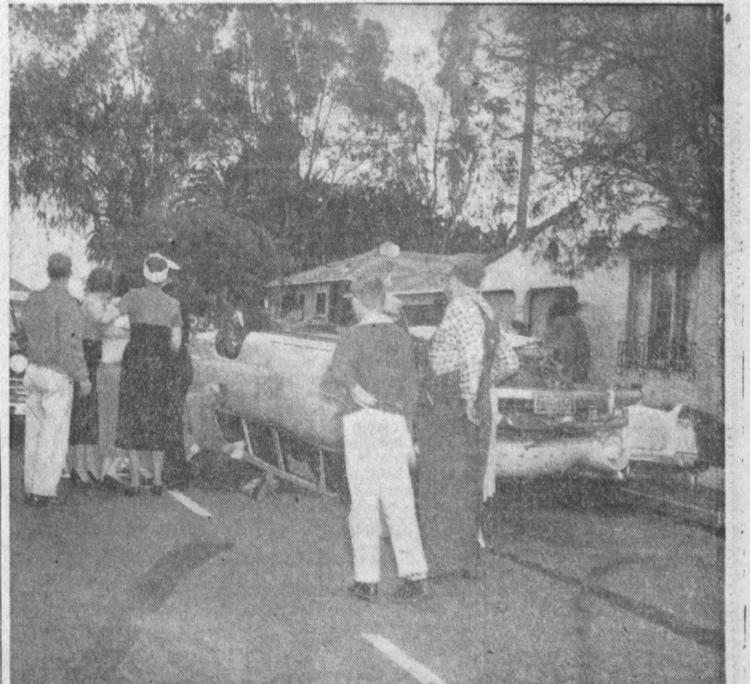
The first native governor of the island, Coleman was appointed by President Eisenhower last October.

Previous to that he served as attorney general and public defender on the island. He holds a law degree from Georgetown University, Washington, DC.

School Bus Survey Ready

Investigators from the Los Angeles Board of Education completed their survey of the transportation situation in the newly opened Stephen M. White Junior High school this week.

Their recommendations, which were not made public, were submitted to the superintendent of schools who is expected to bring up the matter at the meeting of the Board of Education today at 4 p.m.



FLIP-FLOP

Drivers of both cars escaped all but minor injuries following a collision at Post and Manuel which caused one of the cars to flip over on its top. Driver of the flip-flop car, Patricia Marie L. Melton, 21, of Redondo Beach, was treated for minor injuries and shock. Doyleen Karl Williams, 18, of 25003 Pennsylvania ave., Lomita, was driver of the other car.—Press Photo

Petition for Election Submitted By Lomita Incorporation Forces

Three Lomita factions this week came closer to a showdown as incorporationists filed

petitions for election with the county and annexationists got ready to circulate petitions.

checked by the county registrar of voters which is expected to take about 30 days.

Local Airport Breakfast Topic

Final plans are completed for the monthly breakfast meeting of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce Tuesday, February 19 at 7:30 a.m., at the YWCA building, it was announced today by King Williams and Dean Sears, co-chairmen.

Those wanting Lomita to remain part of the county continued their fight against both incorporationists and annexationists.

Election is expected around August or September.

A full discussion of the Torrance Municipal Airport will be the program, Williams stated. Representatives of Quinton Engineers who devised the master plan will attend as well as members of the Airport Commission and City Councilmen.

Incorporation forces filed a petition for election on the issue with Gordon Nesvig, clerk of the Board of Supervisors Monday.

In the meantime those favoring annexation to Torrance got ready to publish notice of intention this week.

Councilman Robert Jahn has indicated that he will have a contribution to the affair.

Leonard Loy, chairman of the group seeking incorporation, said the petitions contained 767 signatures of property owners. Only 606 such signatures were required.

It takes 10 days after such publication before petitions asking for a vote on annexation can be circulated.

Reservations for the informative and educational meeting may be secured by calling the Chamber office.

Signatures must now be

"Staying as we are is impossible," George Baisley, spokesman for the group said. "The majority of the people would rather be in Torrance than incorporate or stay as they are."

LOCAL YMCA OFFERS VARIETY OF ACTIVITIES

By RALPH R. GOMPERTZ

Many things that we now accept as part and parcel of our American way of life were invented, developed or pioneered by the YMCA.

Here are just a few: health and physical fitness; sports and athletics (basketball); service to fighting men; exporting American "know-how;" youth and government program; father-son relationships; camping; work with boys; shorter work week; night schools; short-term finance campaigns; Memorial Day poppies; Boy Scouts and Camp Fire Girls.

While there is much to be proud of on a national scale, there is a great deal to be proud of on the local level right here in Torrance.

And there is no better time to tell the YMCA story than now while the \$24,000 fund-raising campaign is in progress.

The accomplishments of the local YMCA during the last

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Know Your Gold Seal Merchants

Gold Seal Merchants who are outstanding leaders in their particular fields have been selected for their integrity and honesty and are especially pledged to uphold the highest code of business ethics.

Displayed in their window will be a Gold Seal which is the symbol of satisfaction when shopping.



EUGENE F. DeBRA, owner and manager of the DeBRA RADIO AND TELEVISION CO., 1517 Cabrillo, is an expert repairman. He specializes in television sets, radios in the home and auto, and other electronic equipment. His mark of distinction as a good business man has been evident since he started his business in 1923. DeBra, who lives at 2725 W. 81st st., Inglewood, is a Rotarian and a member of the American Legion.



At BYRD RUG AND UPHOLSTERY CLEANERS, 1931 W. 174th st., Gardena, MRS. SYLVA BYRD, her two sons, EARL J. JOHN, and his wife, ELIZABETH, have been partners in business since 1954. They specialize in wall-to-wall carpet cleaning, sewing, cutting, binding, serging, dyeing, and tinting. They also give S & H Green Stamps and a 20 per cent cash and carry discount on all cleaning. Another of their well-established and reliable businesses has been located in Hermosa Beach since 1947.



CAMPING

The Torrance 'Y' sent 550 youngsters to camp.



FOOTBALL LEAGUES

It operated football leagues for 400 boys.



LEARN-TO-SWIM CLASSES

Two-hundred youngsters participated in the learn-to-swim program.



YOUTH AND GOVERNMENT

Local representatives will participate in the model legislature.

DYNAMIC Y-PROGRAM FORGES AHEAD