

Merchants Protest Unsolved Burglaries

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VANDALS WRECK PARK—Mayor Albert Isen and maintenance man Jess Fernandez survey wrecked shrubbery intended for a beautification program at La Romeria Park. Shrubs and trees, valued at \$1,000 were

damaged and destroyed by vandals, probably juveniles. Damage was discovered by touring group of city and park officials. Shrubby had been donated to the city for the program by the Del Amo Nursery.

Vandals Ruin City's Park Planting Plans

Destroy Trees, Shrubs, \$1,000 Loss Estimated

A group of city officials, headed by Mayor Albert Isen, Friday toured Torrance parks and promptly turned up cases of extreme vandalism in one of the community's playgrounds.

More than \$1,000 worth of shrubs and trees, donated by the Del Amo Nursery to beautify La Romeria Park, had been torn up, broken off and dragged out into the middle of the playground area.

Group, which included Mayor Isen, the Reverend Milton Sippel, chairman of the Park and Recreation Commission, Harry Van Bellem, recreation director, and Jess Fernandez, park maintenance man, as well as several representatives of the local press, reported that the vandals, assumed to be juveniles, had also torn up the park's two restrooms.

Tour of the city's parks was intended to be a review of current beautification projects at the city-owned recrea-

tion areas.

"A MESS"

Investigating officers said that the park was "a mess." Half a dozen of the more rare and expensive shrubs and trees had been completely destroyed while others had been badly damaged. Planted pine trees had been snapped off close to the ground.

Other trees, still in the containers and ready for planting, had been torn out, exposing the roots. Still another planted tree had been torn up and dragged through the park.

Damage to the restrooms was minor and involved broken windows and plumbing fixtures.

'Bill' Shawger Assumes Post As Chamber Of Commerce Prexy

William E. Shawger, former vice president of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce, will assume the presidency of the organization, it was announced Friday by retiring president R. S. Pyle.

Associated with the management of California Rubber Products, Shawger has accepted the position, effective today.

Other officers for the year will be Jack Phillips, Paramount Builders Supply, first vice president; Harold G. Prentz, Bank of America, second vice president; and Don Hyde, Columbia-Geneva Steel, treasurer.

PIONEER

Shawger, who was born in Newark, New Jersey, is a pioneer Torrance industrialist, moving to this city



WILLIAM E. SHAWGER
... C-of-C Prexy

In 1920 with the Rubber-craft Corporation. After '17

years, Shawger was appointed factory manager of the D. and M. Machine Works' rubber division, another Torrance firm.

He formed his own company, California Rubber Products, in 1945 in Hawthorne and twelve years later moved his two plants to Torrance.

The new Chamber leader was formerly chairman of the group's Industrial Committee.

Shawger is active in the Torrance Rotary Club, American Legion, four Shrine Clubs and the American Chemical Society.

Shawger and his wife, Gertrude, live in Portuguese Bend. A married daughter lives in Lomita and a son in Berkeley.

DEADLINE JANUARY 7 ...

Host of 'Godfathers' Anxiously Await Arrival of First Baby of New Year

A host of Torrance merchants this week were preparing to play "godfather" to the first baby born in the city after 12:01 this morning.

In a city-wide competition, sponsored annually by the Torrance Press, valuable prizes will be donated to the youngster who first arrives on the scene after the beginning of 1961.

Contest is open to all expectant mothers who reside in the circulation area of the Torrance Press. First baby born in 1961 will be declared the winner of the competition and, in the case of a close contest, hospital and city records will be deciding factor.

ARRIVE ANYWHERE

Judges will be the publisher and managing editor of this newspaper and their decision will be final. No claims may be entered after the winner is declared.

Baby may be delivered anywhere, but records must be readily available for judging the contest.

Official baby contest entry forms, which are printed in each issue of the Press, must list the exact time of birth of the newcomer, his or her name, sex, weight and place of birth, parents name and address, and the name of the physician in attendance.

Head of the list of prizes which will be awarded the newcomer are a General Electric Baby Food Warmer, donated by McMahan's Furniture; 1306 Sartori Ave., three dozen Birdseye Diapers from Foods Co. Market, 17500 Crenshaw; a \$5 savings account in the name of the newcomer from Southwest Savings and Loan, 1603 Cravens; a surprise gift from McCown Drug Stores, Inc., 1327 El Prado; a free portrait from Photo Arts

Studio, 1311 Post; a surprise gift from Verberg Dairy, Inc., 2033 W. 174th St.; and the baby's first set of Red Cross shoes from the Torrance Bootery, 1333 El Prado.

COLOGNE, CIGARETTES

For the new mother there will be a cologne or perfume set from Ruth Davis, 1331 El Prado; and for dad, a carton of his favorite cigarettes from Holiday Liquors, 3531 Torrance Blvd.

All forms, fully completed must be in the office of the Torrance Press, 3238 Sepulveda, by 10 a.m., January 7.

So, to all of you expectant parents, clip out the entry form in this issue of the Press. Have it ready when the addition to your family arrives. There are a host of anxious godfathers pacing the floor with you.

And to all of you, winner and losers alike, ... Congratulations!

AN EDITORIAL ...

'Where Are Police?' Query Merchants

Torrance merchants and business and professional men were up-in-arms this week following a rash of burglaries and robberies unequalled in the history of the city.

Merchants were talking of circulating petitions and submitting them to the city council along with demands for increased protection for their establishments.

"Smash and Grab" bandits have victimized two jewelry stores, smashing the show window glass and grabbing merchandise displayed there. Occurrences took place less than a week, and less than a block, apart!

Owner of a large furniture shop, who had discovered a burglary only an hour before this editorial was written, said, "I wonder where our police are? I can see them at any time drinking coffee in some shop but when our police blotters are full of unsolved burglaries of homes and business establishments I began to wonder."

Individual businessmen feel that patrolmen, on their own, are turning in outstanding records but that in the patrolling of commercial firms something is lacking. Majority of the merchants seemed to feel that the lack was on the administrative level.

Police Chief Percy Bennett could not be reached for comment.

Former Konya Mayor, Sitki Bilgin, and Wife Reported Alive, Well

Residents of Torrance were relieved this week to hear that the former mayor of Konya, Turkey, Sitki Bilgin, and his wife are alive and well in that troubled country.

Konya and Torrance have actively participated in a "sister city" program and the Bilgins visited this community in February to attend the Konya Day celebration sponsored by the Torrance-Konya city-to-city committee.

Mayor Bilgin was removed from office and imprisoned following the mid-year upheaval in Konya. Rumors were heard locally that Bilgin had been executed by the new government.

Official "ambassador" to Konya, former Redondo Beach Mayor Charles Wortham and Torrance Chamber manager Dick Fitzgerald both received Christmas cards from the Bilgins. Wortham



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CARRIER BOYS WANTED CALL CIRCULATION DA 5-1515



GRAB WATCHES—Bruce Nadeau, manager of Allen's Jewelers, 1231 Sartori Ave., gloomily patches the window of the jewelry shop after "smash and grab" bandits Friday broke the window, grabbed all of the watches on

display, and vanished. Investigating officers found map of area with exact location of the shop pinpointed, lying in rubble outside smashed window.

Elderly Torrance Resident Becomes Ninth Traffic Fatality of the Year

An elderly, 76-year old man last week became the city's ninth traffic fatality of the year.

Griffith W. Roberts, 1324 Hickory Ave., died as the result of injuries received when he was struck by an automobile as he crossed

the street at Sonoma Ave. and Crenshaw Blvd.

Driver of the vehicle was Leonard Daniel McDade, 46, of 1633 W. 168th St., Torrance. McDade was not held.

A coroner's inquest will be sought, police said.

Roberts was taken to the Little Company of Mary following the accident and died a short while later.

He was the father of Stanley Roberts, principal of Torrance Elementary School.

FORMER STUDENT

In a second report it was learned Friday that Wendy Lee Webb, 19, a former student at Narbonne High School, died last Monday of injuries received in a Christmas Day car crash at Redwood City.

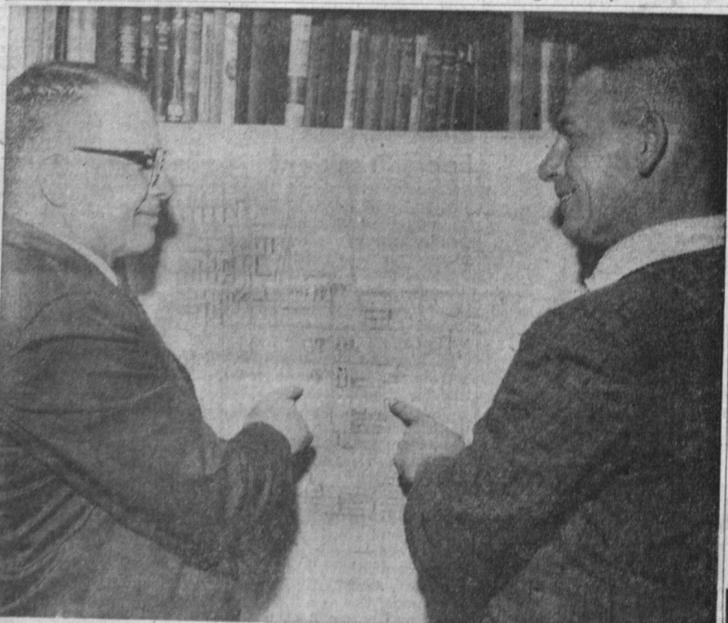
Enrolled as a freshman

at College of the Pacific at Stockton, she graduated last year from Narbonne High. She made her home at 4319 Ranchview Road, Rolling Hills.

Her family requested that donations be sent to the College of the Pacific Wendy-Lee Fund for needy students in lieu of flowers.

Improved Roadway

Supervisor Burton W. Chace announced this week authorization of \$6,150 for roadway improvement work on Berendo Ave. from Milton St. to 204th St. in the Torrance area. Work will consist in extending the pavement to join curb and gutter recently constructed under permit by the adjoining property owners.



THIRD INCORPORATION TRY—Community of Carson Thursday night gave an official "go-ahead" to plans to incorporate as a city. At a meeting of the Carson Civic Betterment Association, R. B. Keith, left, Carson

realtor, was named permanent chairman of the newly formed incorporation committee. Here, Keith shows Earl Swanson, president of the CCBA, outline map of the area to be included in the planned city.