

# Police Close \$4500-a-Day Bookie Ring

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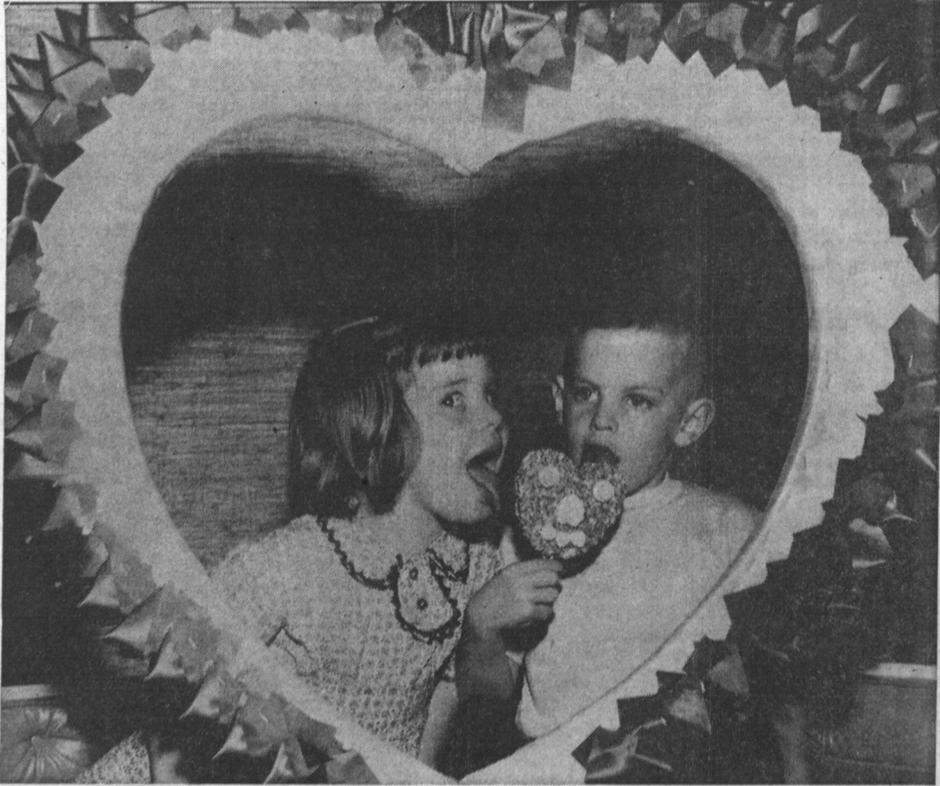
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SIGN OF THE SEASON—Next Tuesday is Valentine's Day and all over the community little and big boys and girls will be exchanging traditional gifts of candy and cards. Here little Susan Phelps, 3, can't wait for the great day and sneaks

a preview bite from Michael Cope, also 3. Florists and confectioners are planning to remain open later than usual to allow for the rush of business.

# Prowler Admits Cat Burglaries

AN EDITORIAL ...

## Big Turnout Urged At Tuesday's Ballot

Torrance voters will go to the polls Tuesday to cast ballots reflecting whether or not they can afford the proposed 50 cent school override tax.

Proponents of the tax have stated that the district is on the edge of absolute poverty and that the money is absolutely necessary if the district is to continue in its present capacity.

Opponents feel that the financial structure of the district is full of water and that the override tax would not be needed if the district would economize and institute more efficient methods.

But, whether or not voters approve the issue is of secondary importance.

The most important issue is that the final decision should reflect the opinion of the majority of registered voters.

We would not like to see this election turn into a rubber-stamp ballot with the only votes registered cast by the special interest groups.

Remember, it is your right to decide whether you can afford this or not. Do not allow others to make decisions concerning your own economics without, at least, casting a vote on the matter.

### DIRECT VOTE

This is one of the few areas in which the individual citizen retains his right to vote directly on taxes; where the voice of the individual can still be heard. In virtually every other tax situation the final decision is made by your representative in Congress or the State Assembly.

It is important that every citizen vote, but it is extremely important that you vote in this election. Your ballot Tuesday protects your right to make your own decision concerning what debts you will incur.

It is suggested that each homeowner in the community contact his friends and neighbors and urge them to vote on this issue. You must remember, the more votes cast the more the results reflect the will of the majority.

An unofficial fifth freedom of the American people is the right to gripe about high taxes. But the voter has deprived himself of this right unless he casts a ballot at each election.

So, lets go to the polls Tuesday and make our desires known.

### \$4500 A DAY ...

## Deputies, Torrance PD Cooperate In Arrest of Local Bookmaker

Torrance police officers and sheriff's deputies Friday night cooperated in closing down a bookmaking establishment which reportedly was doing more than \$4500-a-day business.

Arrested and booked at Los Angeles County jail was William Alonzo Owens, 48, of 2501 W. 182nd St. Investigating officers reported that more than \$2000 in betting markers were found in the suspect's home.

Owens was taken to Torrance police station and then transferred to county jail. Suspect posted an undisclosed bail and was released. He has a past record of several arrests on bookmaking charges.

Vice squad officers disclosed that Owens was probably a runner, for a larger bookmaking concern.

## Students' Holiday

No school tomorrow! Because Lincoln's birthday falls on Sunday, Monday, Feb. 13, will be a school holiday. There will be no classes held at any of the Torrance public schools.

No classes will be conducted on Wednesday, Feb. 22, either, because of Washington's birthday.

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## Confesses to 37 Apartment House Raids

Homer R. Robles, 33, arrested by Gardena police Thursday evening, Friday broke down and confessed more than 37 "cat burglaries" in North Torrance and Gardena.

Rash of burglaries which hit the area over a six-week period had clogged police department switchboards with complaints.

Robles, an unemployed used-car salesman, who went under the alias of Frank Martinez, was picked up at his apartment, 14508 South Western.

Torrance police officers, who cooperated with Gardena officials in the questioning, said that Robles, an ex-convict, readily admitted prowling through apartments while the occupants were asleep, stealing wallets and purses.

### FORGED INITIALS

Detective Robert Hammond reported that the suspect had attempted to cash a large payroll check, stolen from one apartment, in a Los Angeles bank. When the manager told him he would need more identification before he could okay the check, Robles stood by watching him initial other checks for customers, then forged the initials on the stolen check. Cashier promptly cashed it for him.

Following one questioning session Friday evening Robles stated that he had tried to stay out of Torrance during his raids because of the local police department's crime prevention record. He said that his prowls through North Torrance areas took place only because he thought he was outside the city limits.

## Valuable Papers Stolen from Car Parked in Lot

"Everything that could have been money but wasn't," is the description given by Mrs. Winifred Nelmar of the valuable papers stolen from her automobile during the wee hours Tuesday morning.

The papers referred to—birth certificates of herself and son, a marriage licence, and family records—are valuable to no one but Mrs. Nelmar.

The victim, who resides at 116 Sartori Ave., reported clothing in her car was ignored while a file case, briefcase, and tool case was taken. The car was parked across from her home in a city parking lot.

Mrs. Nelmar is currently "living out of a suitcase" as she is making arrangements to move closer to her work at the Mode O Day shop in Redondo.

Appealing to "whoever" broke into the auto asking them to "please" return the personal papers, Mrs. Nelmar announced she would even like to have the missing bills back.

## PRESSURES OF OFFICE ...

# Rolling Hills Mayor Reports He'll Resign Tuesday Night

Mayor Vigo Nielsen, 45, executive head of the Rolling Hills City Council, will submit his resignation from the top post Tuesday evening but will remain as a member of the Council until the expiration of his term.

Announcement of his resignation was made yesterday by the mayor, who reported that his recent election to the Rolling Hills school board plus his appointment last week to the newly formed System Management Study Commission by the Secretary of the Air Force, made his executive duties too rigorous.

Nielsen, who was selected as mayor last May, is a retired businessman. He

lives at 16 Saddleback Road in Rolling Hills.

### STRAIN OF DUTY

He reported that the strain of duties on commis-

## Surplus Equipment Auctioned by City

Unloading surplus cars, trucks and equipment, Torrance will hold an auction March 4 at 10 a. m. at the city yard, 20466 Madrona Ave.

All sales made at the auction will be final at the site, and purchasers will be expected to remove equipment at their own expense within 24 hours.

sions and boards forced him to excuse himself from the extra duties demanded by the mayor's office. He reported that he will also resign from the Los Angeles County Committee of Mayors, where he represents his city.

His successor to the high post will be named Tuesday evening from among the four remaining members of the Council. Members are, in addition to Nielsen, Fred Tourtelot, owner of a travel agency; T. B. Roach, vice-president of a San Pedro stevedore company; Joseph O'Flaherty, president of an electronics firm; and William Horn, a commercial airlines pilot.

## Scouts, Fathers Meet Tomorrow For Banquet

Members of Boy Scout Troop 240 and their dads will gather Monday night for the unit's annual father-son banquet.

Presentation of awards and showing of movies on rocketry are planned during the function at the Waveria Scout House, according to Scoutmaster Don Matthews.

Members of the troop, sponsored by the Waveria Business Men's Club, recently hiked from the Scout House to a gathering of area troops at Lunada Bay in Palos Verdes Estates.

## Loker to Serve With Commission

Receiving appointment on the Small Craft Harbors Commission, Donald P. Loker of Rolling Hills will begin a four-year term following Senate confirmation. The appointment was made by Gov. Edmund Brown.

### CALL FOR BIDS

State Division of Highways this week called for bids on a beautification project on the Harbor Freeway. Project will include landscaping and installation of an irrigation system north of 190th St.

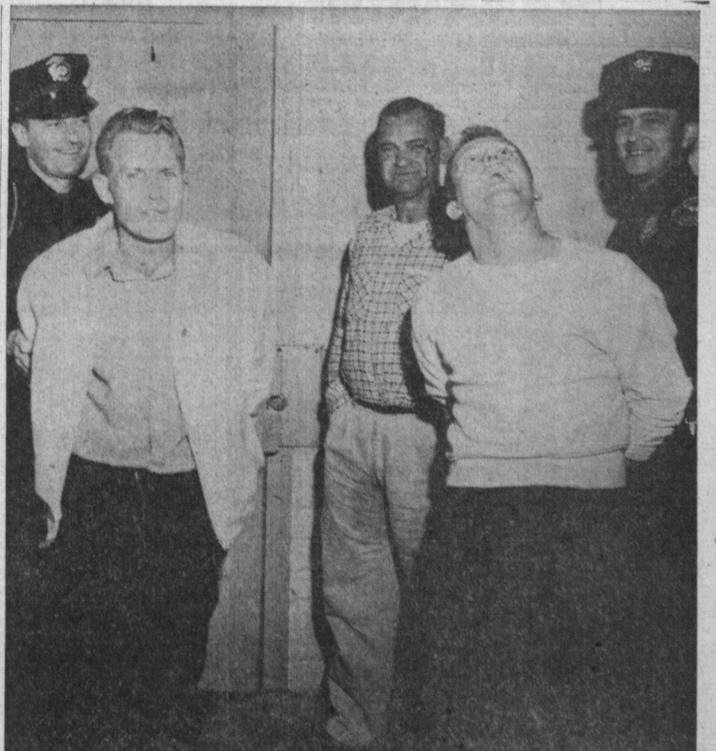


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BLOOD SPATTERED—Passenger Ralph A. Millikan, 33, of Redondo Beach, suffered severe head lacerations Friday evening when the truck in which he was a passenger struck the rear of a car driven by Barry Purdy, 18,

of 2829 Onrado St. Driver of the truck, Harry C. Crowell, 30, also of Redondo Beach, and Millikan, were taken to Torrance police station and subsequently released.



HOWL AT THE MOON—Henry Brodine, 41, of Redondo Beach, and James Timothy Binns, 23, of the same city, were booked at Torrance PD Friday evening by officers Joe Capriotti and Harry Waugaman after they

broke up a fight in a parked car. Two suspects were booked for the beating of elderly Floyd Terrill, 51, rear, of Los Angeles. Here Binns howls his disdain for Press photog who snapped picture.