

# Police Arrest Three in 'Hot Check' Ring

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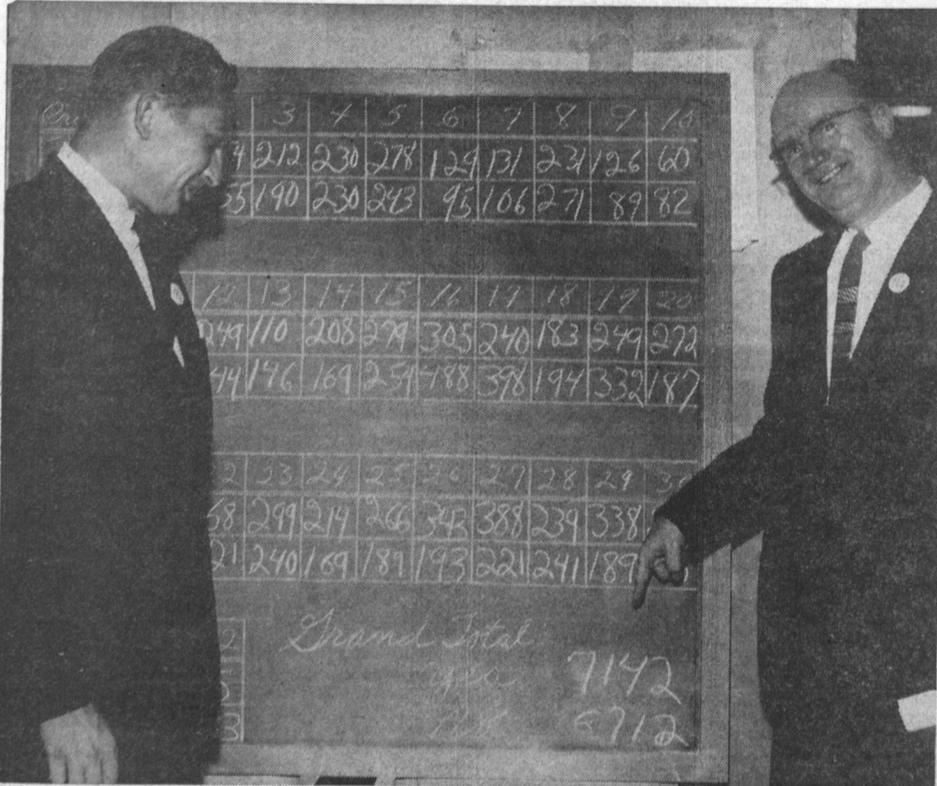
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1961

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VOLUME XII, NUMBER 85

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# Voters Give OK To Tax Override

AN EDITORIAL . . .

## Congratulations Due Voters of Torrance

Torrance voters turned out Tuesday in the largest local election in the history of the city.

More than one third of the registered voters in Torrance made it to the polls to cast their ballots in favor or opposed to the proposed 50 cent school tax override.

A tally of votes cast showed that 13,854 voters expressed their opinions out of the total electorate of 41,000.

Congratulations are certainly due Dr. J. H. Hull, superintendent of schools, and his hard working staff who carried the message of the schools to the electorate.

### CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations are also due to the opposition, who waged such a hard fought battle to hold the tax line and then saw their issue fail by only one percent of the total of registered vote.

But the greatest congratulations are due the voters of the district who turned out in such large numbers to make their wishes known.

Traditionally, local issues attract about 10 percent of the eligible voters to the polls. The 34 percent turnout Tuesday can only be classified as "phenomenal."

To all of the voters who cast their ballot in this vital election, The Torrance Press can say . . . "Congratulations."

## Issue Passed With 430-Vote Edge at Polls

The controversial 50 cents school override tax issue, which has been argued in Torrance for the past two months, eased through Tuesday with a 430 vote majority.

Approximately 13,854 votes were cast on the issue, 7,142 favoring the override and 6,712 opposed. This represented about 2,000 more ballots than were cast during the first election on the same issue in October which failed by about 1300 votes.

The 430 vote majority that put the issue across represented approximately one percent of the 41,000 eligible voters in the district.

### TIED VOTE

Thirty two polling places were open during the election, thirty schools, El Retiro Park and the Home Savings and Loan building in downtown Torrance. In one precinct a deadlock was noted. Voters near Casimir School voted 230 votes for and 230 votes against the issue.

Other precinct tallies showed:

Madison School, 158 yes, 149 no; Carr School, 254-355, Lincoln, 212-190; Arlington, 278-243; Hamilton, 129-95; Cranshaw, 131-106; Yukon, 231-271; Perry, 126-89; Ma-

gruder, 60-82; Edison, 122-133; Steele, 249-144; Favian; 110-146; Towers, 208-169; Madrona, 279-254; Fern-Greenwood, 304-488; Torrance Elementary, 240-398 Adams, 183-194; Wood, 249-332; Jefferson, 272-187; Anza, 279-228; Sepulveda, 168-121; Seaside, 299-240; Meadow Park, 214-169; Calle Mayor, 266-189; Parkway, 343-193; Riviera, 388-221; El Retiro Park, 239-241; Newton, 338-189; Welteria, 205-238; Hillside, 262-145; Home Savings, 115-283.

### '61 OFFICERS

Chamber of Commerce activities in the Southeastern portion of the County will focus on Carson tomorrow night with the annual installation of officers of the Harbor area group.

Installation will be held at the Lone Pine Inn, corner of Main St. and Sepulveda beginning at 7 p.m.

### CHAMBER-SPONSORED . . .

## Annual Search for New 'Citizen of Year' Opens

A search for Torrance's "Citizen of the Year" for 1960 will be conducted by members of the local Chamber of Commerce, it was reported Tuesday by Chamber President William E. Shawger.

Each year since 1953 the citizen of this community whose achievements have been significant to Torrance and to the general welfare of the people of the city has been selected to receive this award.

Nominations are open in all fields. Any individual, organization or association, educational institution, industrial or labor group, profession, or business may enter one or more nominees by filling out the entry blank and returning it to the Torrance Chamber of Commerce. Nominees must reside or be employed within the city.

### NAME JUDGES

Former winners of the award, Merwin M. Schwab, 1953; Dean L. Sears, 1955; Sam Levy, 1956; Dr. Howard Wood, 1957; Glenn Koger, 1958 W. R. Zappas, publisher of the Torrance Press; Dr. J. H. Hull, superintendent of schools; George W. Stevens, city manager; King Williams, publisher; and Shawger, will act as judges to select last year's winner.

Award will be presented as a highlight of the Chamber's annual banquet, to be held at the Statler-Hilton Hotel in Los Angeles March 29. William Belding is general chairman of the event.

Additional nomination blanks are available at the offices of the Chamber of Commerce, 1511 Cravens Ave., and at the Torrance Press, 3228 Sepulveda. Deadline for entries is March 15.

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## Gunman Holds Up Pharmacy; Takes \$140 Cash, Checks From Register

An unidentified gunman, carrying a pistol wrapped in a newspaper, held up an employee of the Medical Arts Building pharmacy 2406 Torrance Blvd., Monday afternoon and made his escape with \$90 in cash and \$50 in checks.

Pharmacist William Steinberg, 32, reported that the bandit pointed the gun at him and told him to "Open the till and then lie down on the floor."

Steinberg said that the gunman made no attempt to take any of the narcotics or drug stock.

After looting the cash register the suspect left on foot and made his escape.

The pharmacist described the suspect as between 30 and 35 years of age, about 5'9" in height, weight about 150 pounds, "very dirty and needing a shave."

## Federal Funds Sought For Airport Work

Torrance City Council Tuesday evening gave the "go-ahead" to plans for arranging future construction at the local airport.

Airport manager Jack Egan reported that communications from the FAA, asking that they submit plans on a 46-54 percent basis, with the federal government picking up the long end of the bill.

Council agreed to a \$100,000 sewer project, \$70,000 for a fire station, \$30,000 for a chain link fence, and a water project costing \$30,000. Funds for the city's share in the project will be available by the end of the year.

Council also set policy declaring that the \$65,000 now in the library fund be spent for a new West Torrance library this year.

## Slate Bloodmobile Visit In Torrance

Placing Red Cross Bloodmobile posters in downtown store windows this week, will be girl scouts from Troop 128 sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Torrance.

February 23 the Red Cross Bloodmobile will arrive in Torrance. Torrance residents alone used more blood and blood plasma than was collected last year.

Bloodmobile will be at the American Legion Hall, 1109 Border Ave. from 2:30.

### NEAR BRUSSELS . . .

## Lomita Figure Skating Coach Dead in Aircrash

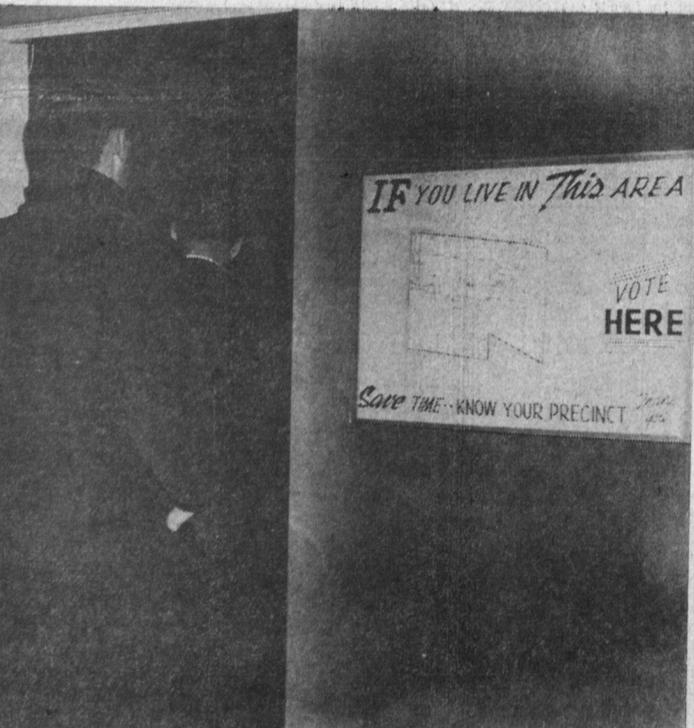
Dean McMinn, 2248 247th St., Lomita, was among the 61 passengers and 11 crewman aboard the Belgian Boeing jetliner that plunged into a field and burned Wednesday near the Brussels airport.

Coach and manager McMinn was flying with Miss Laurence Owen, North American women's figure skating champion and other U.S. skaters bound for Prague.

On a non-stop flight from New York, the huge four-engine plane ploughed into a field near the community of Berg. Eleven fire companies responded to the disaster but it was impossible to get any one out of the inferno alive.

The crash occurred at 10:05 a.m. (1:05 a.m. PST) in perfect flying weather with a clear sky, bright sun and a slight mist hanging over the field.

The first crash of a Boeing 707 in commercial operations, the jetliner involved the seventh largest number of casualties in air crash history.



IF YOU LIVE IN THIS AREA  
VOTE HERE  
SAVE TIME - KNOW YOUR PRECINCT

ELECTION SCENES—Torrance voters turned out en masse in one of the largest community elections in the history of Torrance Tuesday to vote on the controversial 50 cent tax override issue. In top photo Dr. J. H. Hull, superintendent of schools, smiles happily as he points out 430 vote margin to R. K. Petret, personnel consultant for the schools. In lower photo, voters in a central Torrance precinct stand in line waiting their turn to ballot on the important issue.

### HOT CHECK RING . . .

## Hold Three Suspects for Trial After February 11 Roofing Company Burglary

An outstanding bit of police work was credited this week to two Torrance detectives who traced a series of stolen and forged payroll checks and arrested two of the three persons responsible.

Booked at the local station were Simon L. Van Keckerix, 39, of Artesia, and Willis W. Bouma, 36 of Huntington Park.

Detectives Sam Piazza and H. Ingraham reported that the two suspects and Ernest Crawford, 31, of Santa Monica, now in custody there for attempting to pass one of the bogus

checks, will be tried on burglary and forgery charges.

An entire book of checks and a check protector were stolen February 11 from the South Bay Roofing Company, 1825 Torrance Blvd. Detectives traced Van Keckerix and Bouma through the burglary and through cashed checks and made the arrest Tuesday.

Crawford was picked up Monday in the act of cashing one of the phoney checks by Santa Monica police.

Van Keckerix and Bouma were arraigned yesterday in South Bay Municipal

Court on charges of burglary. Crawford will be tried in Santa Monica on forgery counts.



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OFFICIAL GROUND BREAKING—Ground was broken Monday at the corner of Hawthorne and Emerald St. for the new auto lot of Paul's Chevrolet in Torrance. New facility will handle about 80 vehicles according to Ted Green, owner. New lot will be an adjunct to main offices of agency at 1640 Cabrillo. Here Green, Bill Russell, contractor and Dick Hottenroth, used car manager, officially turn over the first spadeful of earth to start construction.