

The Mounted Police Saddle Up



DETECTIVE LT. D. C. COOK, right, of the Torrance Police Dept. vice detail goes over maps of the Torrance area with members of the mounted police in preparation for a search by horseback of the vacant land in town for illegal marijuana. Posse members are, left to right, Art Harkness, Capt. Jack Phillips, and Julio Azpeita.

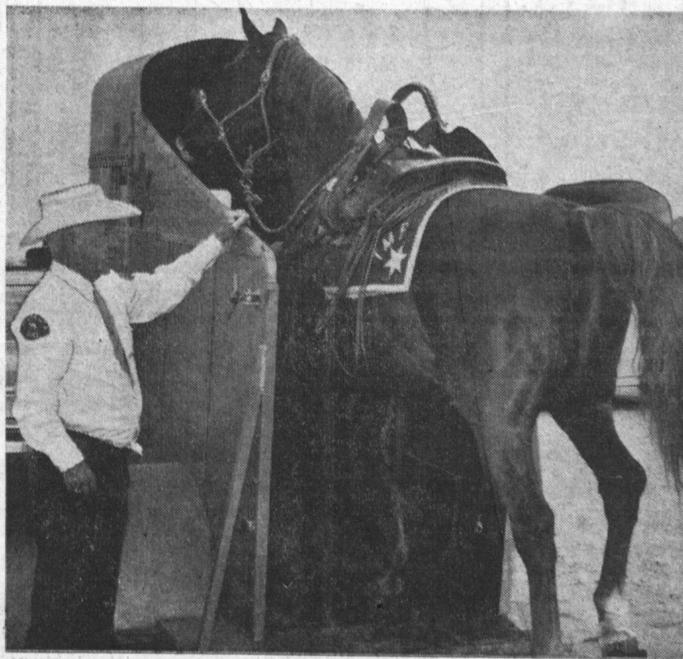
Torrance's mounted police, a crack reserve outfit, is one of the city's best-mounted advertisements.

But these modern-day Bat Masterson types do more than ride in parades. They patrol, and they help round out the city's law enforcement program.

The weekend of the recent racial march in Torrance, the mounties were out in force early on a search for marijuana in nearby fields. They were also on standby duty in case they were needed in the Southwood area to help quell disturbances.

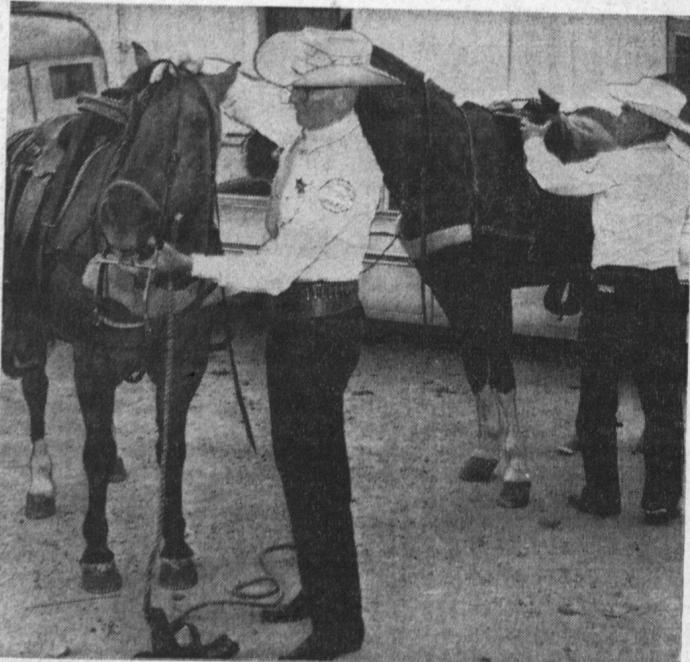
They weren't called on that time, since the situation was kept under control. But — they were ready, and in the meantime they were in the field carrying on a difficult and necessary assignment.

These men, all civilians, who ride and who assist the police department in their own non-working hours, will be performing again in the ninth annual RCA Rodeo Aug. 3 and 4 in the windup to the city's big Rancho Days celebration which starts July 31 and is co-sponsored by the Torrance Junior Chamber of Commerce and the Torrance police assn.



UNLOADING HORSE from its trailer is Art Moore, member of the Torrance mounted police. The mounted police unit was called out June 16 by the police department to comb Torrance

fields for illegal marijuana. Several large hauls of marijuana have been made recently by Torrance detectives, the latest finds being made in large undeveloped fields.



UNLIKE THEIR PARTNERS who drive patrol cars, mounted policemen have a little work to do before they can take off. Above, Art Harkness places the bridle on his mount while Dud Manier saddles up at the rear. Mounted

policemen will be riding through local fields for the next few weeks looking primarily for illegal marijuana but also keeping an eye open for other items possibly discarded from burglaries.



MOUNTED POLICEMEN gather around Capt. Jack Phillips, who points out the different areas to be covered in the search for marijuana. Mounted policemen, all Torrance residents, are similar to the regular reserve in that they are not paid and must supply their

own equipment. Although the mounted police are not used as much now as in the past, they still are a vital help in a city the size of Torrance with so much area still open fields.



A PIECE of plant life believed to be marijuana is inspected by two members of the Torrance mounted police, Sgt. Lee Risler and John Burnett. Any found marijuana plants or ones sus-

pected of being marijuana will be reported to Lt. Cook of the Police Dept., who, with members of the vice detail, will verify and confiscate all such plants.

Law on Horseback A Local Tradition

Law on horseback is a Torrance tradition — young but bright.

The Torrance mounted police — between 25 and 30 strong — have been riding since 1952 when the unit was formed as part of local reserve forces by Lt. D. C. Cook.

The mounties ride in about 12 parades a year, including the Armed Forces Parade here, and events in Palm Springs, Santa Maria, San Diego, Huntington Beach and Pomona, among others.

They are among the city's best advertisements in their snappy uniforms, with their precision drilling, and this kind of advertisement is one of the crack unit's main functions — sort of riding good will ambassadors for Torrance.

In addition, though, the mounties, who will be featured in the RCA Rdeo that winds up Rancho Days here in Torrance Aug. 3 and 4, are a trained police unit.

They can help search for marijuana as shown in these pictures, or they can aid in flood control work, as during last winter's heavy torrents. They can be and have, been a major factor in searches for missing persons, and are available for any kind of special police duty.

The mounties meet every month in their own building at 20300 Madrona. They supply all their own equipment including trucks, trailer, saddles, uniform and guns.

The Rancho Days fete, which begins July 31, will be at the field just east of Del Amo Shopping Center, at Sepulveda and Madrona.



BUCKING STEER gives local rider rough time in RCA Rodeo in past Rancho Days activity here. This year more of the same and lots of new, interesting action is promised by the Torrance mounted police and the Torrance Junior Chamber of Commerce.

PRESS PHOTOS
by
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