



**BEAUTY CONTEST WINNERS** . . . Here, in the opinion of six judges, are the pick of a crop of 10 entries in the Bathing Beauty Contest staged by the Torrance Moose lodge in connection with a dance at the Civic Auditorium last Saturday night. They are, right to left: Lella Mae Combs, 24, of 1319 West 221st street "Miss Torrance" who will compete in the Southern California finals at Venice April 15; Jeanne Louise Hutchins, 18, of South Gate, Jean Arlen, 17, Redondo Beach, and Ethel Schimmick, 17, of 1402 West 220th.

While news photographers' flashes punctuated the event with brilliant spurts of light, 10 winners, some dressed in evening gowns, some in one-piece bathing suits, last Saturday night in quest of the title "Miss Torrance." The beauty contest was attended by a fair-sized crowd of dancers attending a public program sponsored by the Torrance Moose lodge.

Brunette Lella Mae Combs, 24, of this city was picked as the winner by six judges — Miss Esther Z. Maxwell, representing the Torrance Business and Professional Women; Mrs. Gertrude B. L. at Los Angeles, of having taken upwards of \$800 worth of merchandise from Luckenbach's sheds and disposing of it thru the other two men acting as "fences." They were identified only as Watson Hamlet Jones, 45, and Charles A. Simson, 42, both unemployed.

Hood announced the merchandise consisted of tires and tubes and quantities of coconuts, taken since last Christmas. He said a complaint was filed today and tomorrow the three will be arraigned before U. S. Commissioner David Head. G. F. Hickley, F.B.I. agent, booked Hatterman at the San Pedro jail and continued with the prisoner to Los Angeles yesterday.

Miss Combs will represent the local lodge in the Southern California finals, to be held at Venice April 15. The winner of that contest will then go to Atlantic City, N. J., for the national event.

## Week-end Arrests Noted for Their Variety Here

Arrests by local police last week-end were noted for their variety. Because of an altercation, Claude A. Leonard, 27-year-old Long Beach newspaper vendor, and Jack Haddock, 33-year-old Long Beach oil worker, were noted for disturbing the peace Friday. Both pleaded guilty and both were given \$25 suspended sentences on condition that they stay out of Torrance in the future.

On his release from the county jail where he had served a sentence for being drunk in a Lomita hotel, B. B. "Battling Bob" Thompson, 40-year-old oil worker, was re-arrested on a bench warrant by local officers. He was charged with violation of probation, drunkenness and disturbing the peace. Thompson is now working out a 25-day jail sentence on the new police pistol range.

Four counts were leveled against Gordon L. Farrar, 27-year-old worker residing at 2003 Plaza del Amo, following an automobile accident in which Lawrence Sommers' car was badly damaged. Farrar charged with driving while intoxicated, damage to property and having no driver's license, crashed into Sommers' machine while making a

## Federal Agents Hold Walterian for Cargo Theft

G-men from the Federal Bureau of Investigation in Los Angeles took Earl T. Halterman, 25, of 24256 Hawthorne avenue, Welteria, and two Los Angeles men into custody this week on charges of thefts from interstate shipments.

The Walterian, a Luckenbach Steamship company watchman at the inner harbor, was accused by R. B. Hood, chief of the F. B. I. at Los Angeles, of having taken upwards of \$800 worth of merchandise from Luckenbach's sheds and disposing of it thru the other two men acting as "fences." They were identified only as Watson Hamlet Jones, 45, and Charles A. Simson, 42, both unemployed.

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## Elson Says Jr. College Assured

Speaking on "Your High School" to members and guests of the Torrance Kiwanis club, Principal Thomas Elson revealed Monday night that he is confident that a Junior College will be established here with the opening of the 1939-40 school term this fall.

"We have enough students already definitely enrolled for several junior college classes," he said, "and we still have not sought entries from the ranks of Narbonne, Banning or Redondo high school graduates."

"I have arranged for a conference with the superintendent in charge of special schools for the Los Angeles city system immediately after the Easter holidays. At that time we will go into the matter of a curriculum for the Torrance Junior College. We hope to have all the details completed in ample time to begin the coming term on schedule."

Tells Refund Cost  
Elson appealed for suggestions and criticism of the high school study program during his revealing talk on what he and the faculty are attempting to do to make "our local students better qualified to meet the world before they are thrust out in it."

The high school principal also presented 10 student singers and Mrs. Marjorie Elschen Cooke, their director, and Jack Swartz, senior student, who outlined the vocational guidance program now in effect. Another speaker on the program was H. W. Higgins of the county surveyor's office, who represented the board of supervisors in an explanatory talk about the controversial "tax refund" proposal.

Two bills are now before the state legislature to authorize these refunds, which Higgins said would cost the county and its taxpayers more than a million dollars to carry out. He urged the Kiwanians to write their legislators condemning the bill in the interest of every taxpayer.

## Normandie Group Seeks Tax Relief

Delegates representing residents in the A. & L. District No. 70 along Normandie avenue in the Shoestring strip were scheduled to meet with the county's special assessment jury committee yesterday to discuss plans for clearing up the Mattoon assessments on their property.

A meeting of the taxpayers in that district was held at Steelworkers' hall here last week. Mrs. S. A. Green of 22412 Normandie avenue, and Ralph Perry of 1331 West 218th street, were named to head the delegation to confer with S. E. Elliott, special investigator, before placing their appeal for tax relief before the board of supervisors.

Individual owners are willing to continue payment of their share of taxes on the 10-year-old Normandie avenue improvement. It was brought out at the general meeting here, but will refuse to pay the pyramiding assessments caused by delinquencies of other owners, said to be in the main, large property holders and firms.

Another general meeting of the district's property owners will be held tomorrow. Local 400 held the Steelworkers' hall on Cravens avenue across from the central fire station.

## Policy On Tax Relief Awaits June Hearing

Policy of the board of supervisors relative to aid to special assessment districts for the next fiscal year, 1939-40, will not be determined until around July 1, owing to important bills pending before the state legislature. It was decided today by the board of supervisors.

Sometimes during June a public hearing will be held by the supervisors on various matters pertaining to special assessment relief. Property owners in highly indebted districts all over the county had been asked to considerable extent up until last year, when the board changed its policy and virtually cut off all aid from gasoline tax funds.

## Supervisors to Discuss Drilling in Lomita Park

Whether oil drilling shall be permitted on the land designated as Lomita Park is to be discussed at a committee-of-the-whole meeting of the county board of supervisors next Wednesday, April 5. It was decided this week at the Hall of Records.

Dr. Oscar Hauge, supervisor for the Fourth district, said he wanted it clearly understood that if oil drilling were to be permitted on the park land that the revenue therefrom would be used entirely for development of park areas in the county.

Amendment to existing laws will be required if drilling is to be permitted. It was explained and the supervisors will ask Deputy County Counsel Harold W. Kennedy to seek the necessary amendments if the majority of the board so decides next Wednesday.

## May Buy Aerial Map of City

An offer to provide an aerial map of the city, photographed from an altitude of 7,000 feet and scaled to one inch to 3,000 feet was made to the city council Tuesday night by Charles Whitehouse of the aerial photo company that bears his name. The price, he said, would be considerably below estimates given the city several years ago by several other companies specializing in this type of mapping.

Whitehouse exhibited a sample of his firm's work in the shape of a huge photograph of San Pedro and portions of Long Beach. Councilmen remarked about the clear visibility of streets, alleys, sidewalks and even street markings. Whitehouse was asked to provide specifications and the actual cost of a similar map at the next meeting.

During the discussion of the offer, B. M. Prewett of 1414 Cravens avenue arose in the audience and asked Whitehouse if he had the War Department's permission to make such revealing photos of coast-line cities. He said he was under the impression that such pictures must be approved by the War Department before being released in view of military operations in the vicinity.

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RAIN TOTAL 11.90  
Last week's drizzling rains were gauged at 14.4 of an inch by members of the fire department who are keeping the city's rain log. The total for the season to date is now 11.90 inches.

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**MEETING GRANDMA** . . . When Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt arrived in Seattle to visit her daughter, Mrs. Anna Roosevelt Boettiger, she was greeted by the president's grandchildren, Sistine and Buzze. The Boettigers are expecting a new member in the family soon.

## NEW WELLS INDICATE SECOND OIL POOL HERE

"Where's it going next?" is the puzzling question being asked by oil operators in the South Torrance field as they tried this week to fathom the extent of the oil strata underlying the area that is now well into Lomita territory.

Two wells have tapped what is apparently a separate and distinct oil pool than that reached by other wells in the area. These were the Lebow hole on the Ketter lease and Ray Wilson's nearby well at 242nd and Walnut avenues.

Both new wells showed approximately 1,500 barrels per day on initial tests before being beamed down, according to field scouts' reports.

Wells a block to the north have shown top production flows of about 500 barrels, while a block to the west, Deen Hot Drilling company's outpost on Eshelman avenue encountered showings not so favorable, it was reported.

On the basis of these tests, geologists in the field are generally refusing to predict the extent of the area, believing that a new pocket may extend southward for some distance toward Harbor City.

## ASPHALT PLANT NEAR COMPLETION

A new gas absorption plant to process wet gas from 37 wells in the Harbor City field is scheduled in operation by the end of the week, according to J. L. Dunn, superintendent of the Shantley Oil and Gas company. Capacity of the plant at Lomita boulevard and Broadwell avenue will be approximately 6,000 gallons of casing head gasoline per day. This will be extracted at the rate of about three gallons per 1,000 feet of gas and sent to gasoline refineries for combination with other fuels in the manufacture of gasoline, Dunn said.

The refinery is connected with most of the wells in the Harbor City field, both wet and dry gas lines being used. The dry gas will be sent back to the wells after the casing head is extracted for use in pumping and firing boilers. The company intends to fence and landscape its plant.

## Girl Loses Teeth When Car Hits Tree In Street

Two young Redondo Beach girls were injured—only having some of her front teeth knocked out—late last Friday night when Homer Sims, 17, of San Pedro, plumed his car into a palm tree in the center strip on Torrance boulevard off Cravens avenue.

The trio were homeward bound from the student dance at the Civic Auditorium. Young Sims told police that he made the boulevard stop on entering Torrance boulevard but did not see the tree when he cut west at a sharp angle.

Ellen Carr, 15, was badly cut and bruised about the mouth and lost some of her teeth when she struck the windshield of the car and Juanita Baldwin, also 15, suffered cuts and bruises as did young Sims. They were treated at Torrance Memorial hospital.

## Would Let L. A. Have Western Job

If the city of Los Angeles desires to undertake the extension of Western avenue—because most of the work would be in Los Angeles territory—the city of Torrance may be willing to let it go ahead and share in the cost. But an advice notice of what this expense would be is essential before Torrance approves the work.

This was the decision of the city council Tuesday night after hearing a report from the highway project from the Chamber of Commerce. Torrance has only a small strip of the proposed extension within its city limits. Effort are to be made to obtain cost estimates on the work and find out if Los Angeles desires to undertake the project.

## Mayor Names Bus Committee

As result of a conference with Earl Jacobs, Gardena city councilman, relative to establishing an inter-city bus service to provide cheap transportation from Welteria, thru Lomita, Torrance and Gardena to connect with the Los Angeles Railway terminus at Vermont and 120th street, Mayor William H. Tolson appointed a Torrance committee this week.

He has asked City Councilman Tom McGuire, Publisher Grover C. Whyte of The Herald, and a representative of the Chamber of Commerce, to serve as the city's delegates on a Torrance-Gardena group that will undertake a thorough survey of the transportation project.

Tolson told members of the city council here Tuesday night that Gardening were keenly interested in linking their city with a line extending thru Torrance and Lomita to Welteria. Jacobs is chairman of the Gardena county public works committee and he will be that community's bus committee chairman.

## Will Post Streets to Ban Trucking

Discovery by City Attorney John E. McCall and City Clerk A. H. Bartlett of an old ordinance last week will permit the posting of several streets off Arlington avenue and Plaza del Amo to prohibit heavy trucking as desired by residents in that district.

McCall told the city council Tuesday night that Ordinance 119 prohibited trucks weighing more than 8,000 pounds from traveling on posted residential streets. Police Chief John Strohm was designated to post the streets and stop heavy traffic that has been enroute thru the neighborhood enroute to and from the South Torrance oil field.

"Want to meet her?"—adv.

## Park Near Water Site Suggested

Pointing out the need for such a recreational area in that part of the city and that the landscaping would end forever the swirling sand that periodically enrages neighborhood housewives, Mr. and Mrs. James H. Brown of 1308 Cedar avenue urged the city council Tuesday night to acquire the property surrounding the municipal water plant and new pistol range off Torrance boulevard and Cedar avenue.

Then that area should be developed as a neighborhood park, the Browns declared. "If you will bring this most desirable improvement to our part of the city, I promise to provide the first tree," Mrs. Brown offered. Mayor William H. Tolson replied that the council will give the matter "due consideration."

## Attractive Elevation

At the present time the land is barren and only a fragile barrier of palm leaves offers partial protection from the gusts of sand blown from the cultivated portion into the adjoining residential section. Mrs. Brown, who carried on a successful "one woman campaign" to erect the palm frond fence after the acreage had been leased to a Japanese farmer and cultivated for several years, said that the city has no playground area in that part of the city.

"We believe our district—west of Gardena from Dominguez to Carson street—deserves your consideration for a recreation area," she stated. "The acreage north of Torrance boulevard and west of Cedar has a natural elevation that would permit beautiful landscaping without heavy expense."

In seconding his wife's request, James H. Brown said that he had served in the planning of the Lakewood Country club in Long Beach and that he believed the proposed park area offers greater opportunities for landscaping development than that beautiful park property.

## Junior Musicians' Request Denied

A recent request for allocation of \$400 for "financial expenses" to send the Junior Musicians' Society to San Francisco fair was not approved by the Chamber of Commerce, it was learned at city council meeting Tuesday night. The request had been referred to the council to the chamber several weeks ago.

Stating that the project "has some merit" but that approval is withheld for lack of funds, the chamber's recommendation was approved by the council.

"Want to meet her?"—adv.

## "I KNEW HIM WHEN . . ." Intimate glimpses of world's great as recalled by Torrance residents

### Questing for Your Memories

Rare is the man or woman who has not had some contact with the illustrious, the famed, the great, the famous, the recalled in after years:

"I knew him when . . ." The Herald would like to report these acquaintanceships with the illustrious, the famed, the great, the famous, the recalled in after years:

If you "knew him or her when . . ." you'll let The Herald know! We promise to make the interview as painless as possible and the story as interesting to readers as your recollection is to you!

California, in 1907—the year after the San Francisco earthquake and fire. Bowen said this week. "When I applied for schooling in building, the superintendent ruled that I would not have to pay tuition because my grandmother, two aunts and an uncle

were taxpayers and had no children in the schools there. "The last week of my high school career, during the midst of final examinations I was told that the board of education had ruled my parents or kin-folks would have to pay for my seven years' schooling there because I was not for lack of funds in the community. If payment was not made at once I could not graduate. Well, there wasn't time to get the money from my parents on the coast and the bill was too high for my grandmother, aunts and uncles to pay so I left school and walked back to the Marion Star building."

Harding to Rescue  
"I had gone to work, as a carrier boy, for the Harding Publishing Company in the fall of 1908 when I was 12 years old. As I was standing in the composing room talking to the printers, Mr. Harding came down from his office on the second floor. He saw me and asked why I wasn't in school. I told him and he appeared greatly interested in my plight. Mr. Harding told me to remain in the building. He would not have to leave in his car. He returned in (Continued on Page 5A)