

Mountain Trip Denied, Girl, 13, Attempts Suicide

LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL RESIGNS

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SIX HURT . . . After driver failed to make a boulevard stop, these three cars crashed at East Rd. and Figueroa early Tuesday night sending six persons to the Harbor General Hospital.

Magner To Succeed Resigning Steinbaugh

Resignation of High School Principal John K. Steinbaugh and the appointment of Vice Principal Wallace Bruce Magner Jr. as the new principal effective Feb. 1, was approved by the Board of Education here Tuesday evening.

In a surprise move, Steinbaugh submitted his resignation and a request to be reclassified as a seventh grade teacher to permit him to complete studies for a doctor's degree, he told the board in a letter.

His resignation was accepted with regrets and his request to be reclassified was granted. Dr. J. H. Hull, superintendent of schools, told the board members that Steinbaugh would probably be assigned a class at the new Riviera Elementary School.

Steinbaugh has been principal of the Torrance High School

and English, and has completed a portion of the study leading to his doctorate. He said it will require the rest of this year and about all of next to complete the work.

He is a member of the Na-



PRINCIPAL STEINBAUGH . . . After Doctor's Degree

tional Education Association, Phi Delta Kappa, and a past president of the Torrance Rotary Club. He has service on the YMCA board of managers and was its president in 1951.

Magner came to Torrance in 1951 as vice-principal of the Torrance Elementary School. He was moved into the high school last September as vice-principal to succeed Charles Wallace, who went to Arcadia as principal.

After Redlands College, where he received his A.B. Magner attended the University of Southern California for his master's degree in education.

The new principal started his career in education with the Burbank School District. He later spent five years with the Los Angeles City Schools, where he was counselor-coordinator for the district and traveled throughout the system.

A Navy lieutenant during World War II, Magner served in staff assignments on the east coast and in the cruiser division in the Pacific Theater.

He is a member of the Torrance Kiwanis Club and the Phi Delta Kappa, professional educational fraternity. He and his

Six Injured in Three-Car Crash On East Road

Three cars crashed together Tuesday night at East Rd. and Figueroa St. injuring six persons including two from Canada and two from Hawaii.

California Highway Patrol investigators sent the injured to the Harbor General Hospital and then from the position of the cars attempted to determine how the accident occurred. One driver gave the clue to the accident when he told Sgt. Lloyd W. Watson of the CHP that he failed to see the stop sign on East Rd. Evidence showed his car was hit broadside and then knocked into the path of the third car, which rammed into the other side.

Treated for injuries were: Joan Thompson, 21, of 23 Duke St., Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, head injuries.

Dan Johnson, 24, 240 Forrest Ave., Laguna Beach, multiple abrasions, released.

Virginia Hill, 15, 16318 So. Paines St., Compton, possible skull fracture, fractured jaw, skull fracture, fractured jawbone, probably compound arm.

Windfeldt Kaoo, 30, of 885 W. Oliver St., San Pedro possible skull fracture, possible rib fracture, and lacerations.

John Kaulu, 32, same address, possible concussion, puncture wound over right eye, and probably fracture of left shoulder.

Neil Wagerle, 16, 711 W. Tichenor, Compton, possible rib fractures.

Kaulu and Kaoo told hospital attendants they are natives of Hawaii.

Police Chief John Stroh told the women:

"If we can find the location of those steps which the little victim saw beneath her blindfold, we will know the identity of the man."

With the aid of Sgt. D. C. Cook, who heads the manhunt, Chief Stroh assigned 35 search areas within a five-mile radius of the city. The women, using their own cars, then provided the search quadrants reporting to police the location of three to five concrete steps leading to a building from a concrete approach. The search encompassed all of Lomita and Harbor City, and extended northward to take in parts of Gardena.

Crash Victim Remains Unconscious, Critical

Still unconscious and in critical condition at Harbor General Hospital late yesterday was Warren E. Hanley, 46, of Palos Verdes, whose auto smashed into a power pole west of Hawthorne Ave. on 100th St. Friday night.

Mrs. Hanley, who was treated for minor injuries following the collision, is maintaining a bedside vigil over her injured husband.

wife, Sara Jane, have two children, Sharon Ann, a fifth grader, and 7-month-old James Bruce.

BEBE WINS A MEDAL

For Being a Good American

BeBe, a 21-year-old feline who loves elections, received a medal this week for being the nation's number one poll cat.

In spite of the fact that BeBe has never voted, although he is old enough, the pet of Mr. and Mrs. Addis Thomas, 22401 Ocean Ave., has been going to the polls with his owners every election day, since his first meow.

When election supplies arrive at the Thomas household, the feline makes a bee-line for the pile of paraphernalia and natively perches himself atop the stack—and there he stays until the supplies are carted away.

While it is expected of all Americans to go to the polls, the editors of the Torrance Herald last June considered it a mite unusual for a non-pedigree "pud-

dy-tat" to go to the polls—especially since he isn't even registered.

The alert makers of Puss 'N' Boots cat food spotted the story about BeBe, the Angora pollcat, and awarded him a bronze medal.

Reads the medallion:

"Awarded to BeBe through Mr. and Mrs. Addis Thomas for contributing to human happiness and exhibiting other admirable traits, this pet has further elevated the cat as man's friend, loyal companion, vigilant protector."

Practically anyone will have to admit that to make nearly 100 trips to the polls in 21 years, even for a cat, is a pretty good record—and we aren't kidding.

Police Check Leads

Police, acting on a score of tips furnished by 65 women who volunteered Monday to help trap a rapist of a 10-year-old Torrance girl, began tightening the net around the kidnaper-rapist this week with hopes of snaring the sex maniac before he hits again.

Interested citizens, both men and women, packed the City Court room Monday afternoon to look at diagrams and hear a description of a set of curved steps believed to be the entrance to the scene of the criminal attack. It was the location of these curved concrete steps which the police asked help in locating.

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The women reported the location of 25 different sets of curved steps which may have been the rapist's hideout.

Sgt. Cook and Officer Gus Rethwisch began checking immediately each location.

It was the eagerness of individual women and various women's groups in the city which prompted the manhunt—the greatest organized effort ever attempted in Torrance. The idea to organize a hunt came after a score of women called the Torrance Herald and the police department asking, "What can we do?" After several women reported to this newspaper they were conducting searches on

(Continued on Page 8)



OPERATION MANHUNT . . . Crowd of 65 men and women listen to Sgt. D. C. Cook describe set of curved steps believed to be the entrance to a building where a 10-year-old girl was criminally attacked on Jan. 11. After

briefing, 35 car loads of volunteers searched area surrounding Torrance in an effort to locate the curved set of steps. Scene is in the City Courtroom last Monday afternoon.

Only Two Pass Exam For Play Director

A recent Civil Service examination for director of recreation of the recreation director for the City of Torrance, showed that only two out of 20 men, Harry B. Van Bellehen, a recreation director of Los Angeles, and Frank Carpenter, recreation director of Torrance, passed the exam—and in that order.

Either the appointment of a new recreation director or the reappointment of Carpenter will be left to the discretion of the City Council. All other municipal department heads are appointed by the city manager, but under a new city ordinance pertaining to recreation, the City Council makes the appointment.

Attorney Boris Woolley Considered for City Post

The name of Attorney Boris Woolley was submitted to the City Council last night along with a recommendation that he be temporarily appointed city prosecutor, according to Jim Hall, city attorney.

However, since last night's meeting was an agenda meeting, the council cannot take official action on the recommendation until its next regular meeting on Jan. 27.

Deputies Crash Motel To Foil Suicide Attempt

"My folks wouldn't let me go to the mountains, so that's why I did this," a 13-year-old Torrance girl attempted suicide Saturday night, but was saved by deputies as she lay bleeding at the wrists and sprawled across a bed in a Lomita motel.

Sheriff's deputies acting on a tip that the girl, who had been reported earlier as a runaway, could be found at the motel at 2310 Pacific Coast Hwy., attempted to locate the girl for questioning. They found the door to the motel cabin locked. Looking through a window in the rear they saw the girl and immediately smashed in the door.

She was rushed to the Hillside Community Hospital, treated, and then released to the custody of her parents. The hospital attendants said she had not lost much blood before she was discovered.

The girl told deputies she was able to register at the motel after telling the proprietor that she was the wife of a sailor stationed in San Pedro.

Building Gains 44% Over 1951

Of all the cities in the seven western states, Torrance was tenth on the list of building activity during 1952 and showed the second largest gain of all cities in percentage over the previous year.

Only Pomona, where Convoir is erecting a gigantic guided missiles plant, showed a greater percentage gain than Torrance. Pomona's gain, a "wildcat" leap, showed a gain of 282.3 per cent, while Torrance was second with a 47.7 per cent gain in building activity during 1952 over 1951. Third place went to San Diego with a 37.3 per cent gain.

The state average gain was 3.6 per cent.

Of the cities which showed greater dollar gain in building permits issued, all were larger in size than Torrance. According to the Daily Pacific Builder, largest construction daily in the west, the 12 western cities are:

Rank	City	Volume '52	% chg.
(1)	Los Angeles	\$851,871,111	27.8
(2)	San Diego	\$7,776,475	37.3
(3)	Seattle	\$2,945,565	27.7
(4)	Long Beach	\$2,763,070	19.3
(5)	Portland	\$2,629,355	31.2
(6)	San Francisco	\$2,584,530	14.2
(7)	Oakland	\$2,563,403	11.5
(8)	Spokane	\$1,611,415	3.0
(9)	Pomona	\$1,305,802	282.3
(10)	TORRANCE	\$1,160,117	44.7
(11)	Salt Lake City	\$1,070,521	5.4
(12)	Burbank	\$1,006,216	-38.0

Judge Orders Hearing For Strong-Arm Suspect

A San Pedro man was held Monday to answer charges of a strong-arm robbery of a Torrance man in a preliminary hearing before Municipal Judge Walter Odemar.

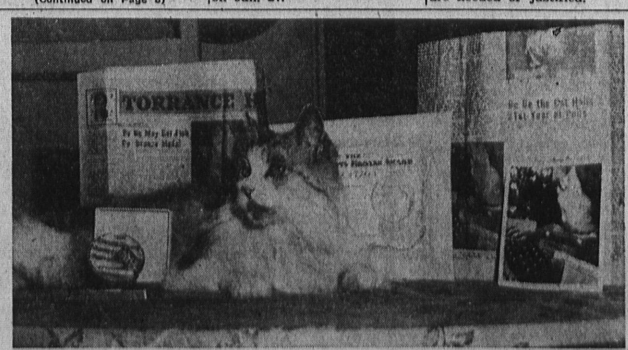
Ordered arraigned in Long Beach Superior Court on Jan. 28 with bail set at \$2000 was Linnie H. Moore, 32, who is accused of robbing George M. Basen, 31, of 2133 Denker Ave. of a wallet containing \$15 in cash in San Pedro on Jan. 7.

\$100 Loot Found; Runaway Boys Nabbed In Ariz.

Two boys, one 13, the other 14, were picked up in Kingman, Ariz., Saturday with \$100 in their jeans what was left from a burglary they said they committed before leaving Torrance.

The boys told Kingman police officers they had burglarized a house, one with blankets hanging across the windows, and had found \$100 in the bedroom. They said the house was located in Palos Verdes, but Torrance police checking with the police there were informed no burglary reported in Palos Verdes.

The father of one of the boys left Sunday for Kingman, to return the boys here.



BEBE, ITEMS FOR THE SCRAPBOOK, A CITATION, AND A MEDAL . . . Sets a Mark for Good Americans to Shoot at