

Death Car Bandit's Charge Reduced to Misdemeanor

ESTABLISHED 1914

TORRANCE HERALD

PRINTED AT 1619 GRAMERCY AVENUE IN TORRANCE

Published Sunday and Thursday—Entered as second class matter Jan. 30, 1914, at postoffice, Torrance, California, under Act of March 3, 1879.

40th Year—No. 63

TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, SUNDAY, AUG. 8, 1954

PHONE Fairfax 8-4000

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12 PAGES

Door Not Door Man Discovers

Torrance truck driver James Kelley, 29, of 235 E. 220th St., will probably look twice before he starts to walk out a door after this.

5000 Kids Stop 13,408 Hazards In Fire Program

More than 5000 elementary school pupils who participated in the County's inaugural Junior Fire Department program succeeded in eliminating 13,408 fire hazards during the past year, it was disclosed this week by County Supervisor Burton W. Chace.

Chace, who is committee chairman of the County Fire Department, revealed that 27 schools participated in the program which also includes Los Angeles City education plants and succeeded in eliminating an average of 2.6 fire hazards per pupil.

Commends Kilinger The Supervisor commended Fire Chief Keith Kilinger and Assistant Chief Leslie A. Dutton of the Fire Prevention Bureau for organizing the Junior Fire Department which, he said, "has saved taxpayers several thousands of dollars since its inception a year ago."

He reviewed the year's accomplishments for his colleagues on the Board in seeking approval of a \$1500 allocation for the purchase of 15,000 new Junior Fire Department badges to be used in the coming year.

Coming Events

- Wednesday, August 11—First day of Torrance community fair, sponsored by Torrance Chambers of Commerce, Civic center area. Also to run August 12, 13, 14 and 15.

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CLOSE HARMONY... Slated for a spot on the Community Fair program during the five-day run here beginning Wednesday are these four Barber Shoppers, from the left, Herb Allen, Al Ewalt, Doug McClay, and Francis Lehr. Other top talent is being arranged to entertain fairgoers throughout the day and evening.

Extradition Planned for Roy Friend

Roy Howard Friend, 30, wanted on charges that he assaulted his wife, Patricia, 25, with intent to kill, will be returned from Wichita, Kans. as soon as extradition papers are returned from Sacramento, Lennox Sheriff's deputies said yesterday.

After shooting his wife, Friend drove to Wichita, where he surrendered to Wichita law officials. He took his two children with him and left them with his parents in Wichita. The shooting occurred after a family argument.

KIND HEARTS OPEN TO NEEDY YOUNG MOTHER

The generous hearts of Torrance residents opened wide this past week for an unfortunate Sepulveda Gardens mother whose story was told in last Sunday's Herald.

- 1) A four to six weeks supply of food from a local market.
2) Free bread delivery, from a bakery.
3) Free milk delivery, from a dairy.
Mrs. Stemann's husband has been hospitalized for six months with the kidney ailment and his compensation pay from Douglas Aircraft runs out this month.

Planners Approve Mortuary - Again

After a stormy session in Planning Commission Wednesday night, the petition of Henry Halverson to construct a mortuary at Cravens St. and Engracia Ave. once again was recommended for approval to the City Council, this time by a seven to one vote.

The voting was: Ayes: Commissioners Beasley, Black, Hill, Lynn, Mason, Whitcomb, and Smith; Noes: Commissioner Sherfy. Sherfy said he voted "no" because he didn't think the Planning Commission had the proper jurisdiction.

Petitions containing 600 signatures of people favoring the mortuary variance and 100 signatures of those who oppose it, were presented at the meeting. The favorable petitions stated that the property is not suited for any other purpose and cited that there is already a mortuary on the northeast corner (Stone and Myers, a church on the northwest corner, a telephone building on the southwest corner and a state building to be erected on the opposite corner.

Second Time Around The controversial issue had been recommended to the City Council once before by the Planners but the Council had sent it back for reconsideration.

Reason for this, according to Council minutes of the meeting of July 6, were that "it did not pass the Planning Commission by an unanimous vote and not all the Commission voted on it; and, Mr. Halverson was not present at the meeting." Commissioner Alvan Hill stated that he couldn't see where the ownership question entered into the case, since the Commission had never been concerned about ownership in the other cases which had come before it. President Bev Smith said that he was of the same opinion.

Community Fair Ready For Debut

When the "Big Top" goes up between 4:30 and 5 p.m. Monday at Maple Ave. and Maricopa St., it will be a sign that Torrance's 1954 Community Fair is about to begin.

The five-day affair will begin at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 11, with the crowning of "Miss Community Fair" by Western Star Doye O'Dell one of the first items on the agenda. The star of movies, television, and radio will crown the queen at 8 p.m.

The winner of the queen contest will be announced late Monday. With final turn-ins of votes due Monday, Jacqueline Pagac, Scorpianist candidate, is leading the 12 other candidates by a fairly comfortable margin. Clown Reggie Dvorak will be in the streets of downtown Torrance to entertain passerby before and during the fair.

Opens at 6 p.m. Running through Sunday, the fair will open at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, and at noon Saturday and Sunday.

More than 100 exhibit booths will show the wares of Torrance merchants and industrial firms at the fair. One of the major displays will be of latest automobiles and their accessories. Free merchandise, donated by Torrance merchants, will be given away as door prizes hourly. These include clothing, appliances, and various other merchandise gifts. The top prize will be a week-long, expense paid trip to the Hawaiian Islands.

The queen herself will receive a trip to Mexico City or \$300, as well as various other prizes of clothing and merchandise. For the runner-up, there will be a \$50 prize, and for the third place winner, \$25.

Children to Ride Rides for children and their elders will be provided by the Pan American Amusement Company in a giant fun zone. Food and game concessions will be operated by local civic and charitable groups.

Entertainment will be provided under auspices of the Torrance Recreation Department. Forty local citizens, chosen by audition, will provide nightly entertainment for fairgoers. Included in the entertainment are singers, dancers, quartets, tumblers, pantomime artists, and instrumentalists.

"In Going" Badges, bearing the motto, "In going," are now being sold for 25 cents. Any person wearing a badge can get into the fair grounds at any time.

Also being sold are tickets entitling the buyer to a vote in the queen contest. These are 25 cents apiece. Fifteen street banners have been placed at various places in shopping centers of Torrance.

Along with 12 other civic and charitable organizations, the fair is sponsored by the Torrance Chamber and Junior Chamber of Commerce. Candidates for fair queen and their sponsors are Miss Pagac; Ella Mae McLeod, Lion's Club; Pauline Glueckert, Rod and Gun Club; Earle Simms, Jayettes; Ann Webb, Firemen's Assn.; James Colombo, Torrance Gardens and Plaza; Theresa Reddington, Torrance Optimists Club.

Pat Gaida, Kiwanis Club; Lois Jones, Women of the Moose; Carol Winkler, North Torrance Civic Assn.; Flo Luango, Civitan Club; and Vera Roberson, Lolita Optimists Club.

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DOWN TO EARTH... Joe Connolly, 25-year-old technical writer, made his first jump from an airplane yesterday, and commented "It won't be the last time." A former Air Force crewman, he satisfied a long-time whim to jump at Torrance Municipal Airport.

Jury Asks for Leniency, Sentencing Due Tomorrow

Although found guilty on counts of theft and manslaughter in connection with an accident which took the lives of a mother and daughter last Apr. 3, Corralles Acosta, 26, found a sympathetic jury Friday in Long Beach Superior Court.

The Mexican farm worker was charged with stealing a taxicab and driving it into a car at Hawthorne Ave. and Pacific Coast Hwy. Two of the three occupants of the other car, Mrs. Patricia Von Delden, 20, of Glendale, and her nine-month-old daughter, Kim, were killed in the crash.

The jury decided that Acosta had not committed "gross negligence" in driving the car. The manslaughter charges were fixed as misdemeanors.

Say We're Sorry Jury Foreman Norval T. Clark shook Acosta's hand and asked that Acosta, who speaks no English, be told: "Tell him we felt sorry for him and don't think he's a criminal. We hope the judge will be lenient with him so he can go back to his family in Mexico."

Although charged with taking the taxi from driver Frank Griffith of Redondo Beach, at Hawthorne and Sepulveda Blvd., and driving it to Pacific Coast Hwy., Acosta denied that he could drive. He also denied taking the cab.

Judge Joe Raycraft set Monday, Aug. 9, as the date for Acosta's sentencing. On the manslaughter convictions, he can receive up to one year. The theft conviction carries a possible sentence of one to 10 years.

Measles Continue to Lead Local Diseases

Measles continued to lead the list of communicable diseases in the Torrance area during the week ending July 31, according to the weekly County Health Department report. Ten cases of the disease were reported, along with three cases of the mumps, Chickenpox, German measles, infectious mononucleosis, pneumonia, and polio each claimed two victims. Single cases of whooping cough and syphilis also were included in the list.

Irate Citizens Make Roadblock

Angered by the number of cars and trucks speeding past their homes, a group of Redondo Beach citizens took the law into their own hands this week and erected a barricade across Avenue E on the Torrance-Redondo Beach boundary. Chairs, tables, piano benches, boxes, and lumber were piled across the street, preventing the movement of traffic. The barricade was placed at the point where Torrance's wide Palos Verdes Blvd. narrows into Redondo's Avenue E. At this point, the street is barely wide enough for two cars to pass, when vehicles are parked along the sides, and ordered residents to remove the barricade. Some 60 to 70 people gathered to participate and watch the events. After tempers had cooled, Caldwell and his former opponents were shaking hands. Redondo residents said that they objected to the cars speeding past their homes. There are no sidewalks in the area, and residents said they feared for their children. There are no speed limits posted in the area. After leaving Torrance, the street goes through a 150-foot strip of Redondo Beach territory, and then enters Los Angeles County jurisdiction.

Doctor's Office On 234th Denied

A petition to construct professional offices and parking facilities adjacent to the Knolls Shopping Center was recommended for denial by the Planning Commission Wednesday night.

The petition for variance, filed by LeRoy and Barbara Jean Grant, covered land at 1710 W. 234th St., between Western Ave. and Huber St. in a single-family residential zone. The building was to house a regular medical doctor's office with complete x-ray equipment. Several persons who live in the area were present at the meeting and registered protests and Secretary George Powell read a letter of protest.

South Bay Bar Group Names Anderson Prexy

The South Bay Bar Association named Walter Anderson president and Mark Wood and Bill Keene first and second vice-presidents at its last meeting. Other new officers are John Wild, secretary; Tom Fredericks, corresponding secretary; Arnold Cowan, treasurer; and Dudley Gray, Eric Rafter, Donald Fitzcock, Jack Stearns and William Hollingsworth, board of directors. Present at the meeting were John A. Shidler and Otto B. Willett, judges of the South Bay Municipal Court.

Torrance Owl

A subtle man is a fellow who can say what he means in a way that gives him time to get out of range before it is understood.