

# MOTORIST FACES MANSLAUGHTER CHARGES AFTER FATAL ACCIDENT

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**TORRANCE HERALD**

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## Council to Study Charter Changes

### Building Booms Again as Strike Finally Settled

Building in Torrance started off with a rush in 1955 at the end of the sand and gravel strike brought in nearly as many building permits as the whole month of December.

According to Walter Bradford, senior clerk in the City Engineer's office, building permits during the first week of 1956 totaled \$501,407, while last month's totals were \$902,817.

Milton Kauffman, the city's biggest builder, took out permits for 45 houses near 163rd and Glenburn Ave. valued at \$486,600. The Len Construction Co. took \$241,600 in permits for 24 new homes in the 4600-4800 block on MacAfee Rd.

The Hi-Shear River Co. took out a permit for a new office building at 2650 W. 24th St., valued at \$42,165.

Meanwhile, building activities in housing tracts, school plants, the new Civic Center, and the new municipal swimming pool resumed this week as the three-month old strike ended.

Most construction ground to a halt or slowed down while the strike was in progress. Building permits fell off to a fraction of the average.

### Annexation of El Nido Sought

Members of the El Nido Civic Assn., and the North Torrance Civic Improvement Assn. will meet informally with the City Council tomorrow evening to discuss a proposal to annex the El Nido area to Torrance.

Mentioned several times during the past year, the proposal to annex El Nido to Torrance has been given an unenthusiastic reception by the Council. Potential commercial development of the area which lies north of 190th St., west of Hawthorne Ave., has stirred new interest, however.

The two new civic groups will meet at a 5 p.m. meeting of the Council which precedes their regularly scheduled meetings at 5:30.

**Charter Changes**  
A formal public hearing on nine proposed charter amendments has been scheduled for 5:30 p.m. at the regular Council meeting. The proposed amendments include:

1. Pay for City Councilmen of \$100 a month.
2. Giving Civil Service status to Assistant City Attorney.
3. Raising maximum expenditure allowable without public bids from \$1000 to \$2000.
4. Requiring filing of claims prior to inauguration of suits against the city or any board of commission for the taking of property.
5. Setting up terms, conditions, restrictions, and limitations for granting of franchises.
6. Consolidation of city and school elections.
7. Setting procedure for adoption of ordinances and resolutions.
8. Establishment of director of finance for city.
9. Describing powers and duties of City Treasurer.

**Controversy Seen**  
The Board of Education has objected to the proposal to consolidate city and school elections, citing several reasons why the change would not be in the best interest of the school. The board pointed out that the voters had split the election to coincide with most other California school elections in 1948.

Most of the other proposed changes are technical in nature and probably will not stir up controversy.



(Herald Photo)  
**SICK, BUT GETTING BETTER . . . Little Launa Williams and her Christmas dollie both are getting better now. Launa had to take eight anti-rabies shots before the dog which bit her last Dec. 14 was finally located this week. The shots made her very sick, but authorities advised them for safety's sake. Oddly enough, Launa's new dollie also fell sick at the same time, but is likewise recovering.**

### Girl Ends Shots; Find Missing Dog

A seven-year-old North Torrance Elementary School girl, her brain giddy and her body aching from eight anti-rabies shots she had received, smiled wanly Thursday as she learned that she wouldn't have to take any more of the dreaded shots.

Little Launa Williams, daughter of Mrs. Georgetta Williams, of 2305 W. 166th St., was receiving the series of 14 rabies shots as the result of dog bite on the school playground last Dec. 14.

Since the offending dog had vanished, health authorities felt it necessary to give the little girl the anti-rabies injections to insure that she would not get the disease, which is always fatal.

**Dog Found Thursday**  
The dog was located Thursday in Hawthorne after a story in Thursday's HERALD pointed out the plight of the little girl. Richard Oliver, an El Camino art instructor, said he had found the dog in the 4100 block on 180th St. and had given it to a family in Hawthorne. The South Bay Humane Society picked up the 1-year-old cocker spaniel there, and after tests, it was definitely determined that it was not rabid.

As a result, the little girl was able to stop taking the rabies shots after eight of them had already been completed. They made her very sick, however, sending her temperature up to 102.

**Girl Became Sick**  
"It wasn't the actual shots that made her so sick," her mother declared. "It was the after-effects. She perked up right away when I told her she wouldn't have to have any more shots."

Health authorities said that although the shots frequently make the victims sick, they are important in prevention of rabies. A person who contracts rabies always dies, they pointed out.

"Unless you get into a situation like this, you don't realize how important rabies inoculation shots for dogs can be," Mrs. Williams said. "Nobody loves pets better than I do, but you can't imagine what I have been through in the past few days."

**Girl Bitten**  
The little girl was bitten on Dec. 14, the day before the close of school for Christmas vacation, as she tried to pick up the animal on the school playground. She was treated by the school nurse, who reported the bite to the County Health Department.

The following day, school closed and nobody knew what had happened to the dog. Apparently a stray, the dog had been taken by a neighbor, but left the neighborhood. Mrs. Williams then began a house-to-house search for the dog after authorities told her that her daughter would have to take the shots if it was not found.

**People Uncooperative**  
"I walked through ditches and alleys, checked animal hospitals, talked to people, and did everything I could think of to find it," she said. "If they had a dog, many of them wouldn't even talk to me because they were afraid the pound would pick up their dogs and destroy them."

The South Bay Humane Society assured Mrs. Williams later that they do not destroy even vicious dogs for a long time, in order to allow their owners to pick them up or some other person to claim them.

### Man Dies As Auto Smashes Truck Off Cliff

A Torrance man was arrested on suspicion of manslaughter charges after the car he was driving smashed into a pick-up truck with a young couple inside and drove the vehicle and its occupants over a 300-foot cliff in the Palos Verdes Hills early Friday morning.

James L. Carter, 29, of El Monte, died in the tragic crash, when his body was thrown out of the truck. His fiancée, Shirley Lee Sparks, 19, of Gardena, was in critical condition late Saturday at a San Pedro hospital.

Melvin R. Sears, 34, of 838 Faysmith Ave., was at the wheel of the car that pushed the truck over the embankment.

Highway patrol officers said Sears' auto went out of control just after midnight and failed to negotiate a turn and crashed into the truck. The accident happened on Palos Verdes Dr. East, near Crest Rd.

Carter and Miss Sparks reportedly were planning to be married in the near future.

The impact of the collision rolled the truck over the steep cliff and it went bounding end over end until it came to rest on a lower road.

A Hawthorne motorist reportedly drove Sears outside his driveway car shortly after the crash. He later discovered the tragic wreck and found Carter's body and the injured woman.

### Woman Arrested For Bookmaking

Police placed three \$2 bets Thursday afternoon with a woman bookmaker here, then minutes later had to break down the front door of a North Torrance residence to make the pinch and stop the thriving operation.

Torrance detectives and sheriff's vice squad members arrested Joan Elizabeth Yarbrough, 41, of 8044 W. 133rd St., Hawthorne, after their bets on Santa Anita races were accepted by the woman.

She was working out of the Robert L. Howell home, at 3718 W. 147th St., although Howell didn't have an inkling of what was going on at his home. His wife did, however, police say.

Mrs. Yarbrough now is free on a writ of habeas corpus and will face arraignment on the bookmaking charge Wednesday in South Bay Municipal Court. She will be charged with three counts of making book.

The Yarbrough woman called up Mrs. Howell early in December and told her she was a telephone solicitor. She proposed that if she could work out of the Howell home, she would pay Mrs. Howell \$5 a week and pay her phone bill.

The Torrance woman accepted and the bookie moved in and started doing a landslide business. Mrs. Yarbrough would come to the family residence after Howell left for work in the morning and leave before he got home. He knew that the house was being used for solicitation, but was unaware that illegal betting on horse races was taking place at the home.

**Leaves of Routine**  
Authorities say that Mrs. Howell discovered the bookie operation soon after Mrs. Yarbrough began her daily routine. But she went along with it. Police said that in a probable forty no action would be taken against the Howell woman, since she was very cooperative in supplying information on the operation.

Mrs. Yarbrough was turned over to the sheriff's office for prosecution after she was book.

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### Rotary Told Bogus Checks Big Business

Bogus checks, whether of the NSF or counterfeit variety, constitute big business today, Detective Hyman Fischer told members of the Torrance Rotary club at their regular Thursday evening meeting.

Citing devices used by criminals to fleece business houses and referring to experiences of his own as a member of the Torrance police department, Fischer advised his listeners to exercise every precaution to follow. A good rule to follow, he suggested, was to demand positive and convincing identification or to know personally all endorsers.

Capt. Ernest Ashton, veteran head of the Torrance department's plain clothes division, appeared with Fischer on the program and suggested a cooperative program for retailers that would be inexpensive and effective in detecting operations in the Torrance business district.

### Girl, 15, Tells Of Wild Parties

Investigation into reports that more than a dozen Narbonne High School students were implicated in a series of dope and sex parties throughout the Harbor area, continued over the week end following an attempted suicide by a 15-year-old Harbor City girl.

The girl implicated 15 other persons ranging in age from 15 to 23, telling police, "I know lots of kids around Narbonne High School that are using pots and pills. One kid told me you can get joints there, two for \$1."

In the language of the dope addict, pots and joints are marijuana cigarettes, while pills refer to barbiturates.

**Girl Took Pills**  
The girl was arrested by juvenile authorities of the San Pedro Police Wednesday after her mother recounted the Dec. 30 suicide try of her daughter. Pills from the home medicine cabinet were used in the suicide attempt, the mother reported.

Tales of narcotics parties in the Palos Verdes Hills were told by the girl, who admitted using marijuana and barbiturates. She also admitted sexual relations with a 20-year-old dope peddler from Los Angeles named "Johnny."

"I knew I was taking a chance, but I was really stoned," she declared.

**On Probation**  
On probation from a previous arrest as an incorrigible and sex delinquent, she had not attended school since she was in the eighth grade. She will have a hearing at 9 a.m. today in Los Angeles Juvenile Hall.

The girl's mother said that her daughter had taken the pills after a quarrel over the girl's failure to do housework "to hurt me."

"I wanted you to find me

### Truck Catches Fire

A fire which caused \$350 damage in a truck owned by Sidsbetham Concrete Co., was extinguished by County firemen Friday, as it was parked at 26109 Narbonne Ave., Lomita. Leo Sidsbetham said he was changing the fuel pump, apparently causing a short in the wiring.

### Polio Shots Begin Today in Schools

Kindergarten, first, and fourth grade students in local schools will get free polio shots starting today, according to Dr. B. A. Kogan, local health officer. Booster shots for children who have received the two previous shots also will be given at some schools.

Shots will be given by representatives of the local office of the County Health Department. Parents' consent slips will be required before shots will be given, he said. The Torrance Unified School District has given its consent to the shots as have other local schools.

**Government Pays**  
Last year, children in the second and third grades received two polio shots and will get booster shots this time. The polio shots are paid for by the government.

The procedure will vary slightly at some of the schools, but the schedule is as follows:

Today (a.m. session) and Jan. 16 (p.m. session)—Riviera and Seaside Schools. Today (a.m. session only)—South Bay Christian School (p.m. session only)—Resurrection Lutheran School. Tomorrow (a.m.) and Jan. 17 (p.m.)—Torrance Elementary, Waltham, and Hillside Schools. Tomorrow (a.m. only)—St. Catherine Laboure.

Wednesday (a.m.) and Jan. 18 (p.m.)—Wood and Meadow Park Schools.

Thursday (a.m.) and Jan. 19 (p.m.)—Fern Greenwood and Madrona Schools. Today (a.m. only)—Nativity School. Friday (a.m.) and Jan. 20

### Governor Asked to Call Special Session for Water Legislation

Senator Richard Richards said that "present floods in northern California have emphasized the need for immediate action on the state's water problems."

Thomas said he had requested the special session in February because of the overlapping of committee assignments on water and finance which would make it difficult to give full attention to the water problems during the budget session of the legislature in March.

"This action was taken in view of the increasing urgency of California's water problems, the need for an over all and intelligently planned approach to conservation and development on a statewide basis of the state's water resources, and the immediate necessity of legislation to alleviate the damage and hardship caused by the recent floods," Thomas said.

The 88th District Assemblyman who represents Torrance and the Harbor Area in Sacramento said the problem of considering a budget of \$1,500,000,000 in March was enough without trying to deal adequately with other problems at the same time.

Engineering studies previously authorized by the legislature are due early this month, Thomas said.

### Lady Wonders What Went on In Her Garage

Neille Darst, of 25006 Andree Ave., Lomita, is still scratching her head over what happened in her garage Friday.

She told sheriff's deputies that she heard someone closing the garage door and went out to see what was happening. She saw no one, but found a brand-new 1956 automobile parked there. It had no license plate or registration card, she said.

She went into the house and called sheriff's deputies. Just as she hung up, two men walked to the garage, opened the door and started to back out the car.

"Stop, I've called the sheriff," Mrs. Darst hollered, running out of the house.

"Why call the sheriff?" one of the men inquired, and drove off.

What would you think?

### \$30,000 Goal Set in Drive

A \$30,000 goal has been set for the March of Dimes campaign in Torrance this year, according to Mrs. Clara Conner and Mrs. Al Turner, co-chairmen for the annual city drive.

Mrs. Conner, chairman of the drive locally for several years, said there would be no door-to-door campaign except for the annual Mother's March held in various neighborhoods.

"We ask all residents to give generously in this campaign for funds to fight that dreaded cripple, polio," Mrs. Conner said.