

# Gamecock Arena Raided, 47 Adults Jailed by Police

Your Complete Community Newspaper—Every Sunday and Thursday

## Torrance Herald

OFFICE AND PLANT AT 1619 GRAMERCY AVE., TORRANCE

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# FIRMS HIT IN BURGLARY WAVE

## Peasoup Fog, Holiday Give Cover to Jobs

Dense fog and a Thanksgiving Day holiday combined to give footpads and yeggs a field day before week's end, according to reports filed with the Torrance Police Department. At least half a dozen Torrance business firms were burglarized, and several garage and residential burglaries were reported.

Edgar Dumont at the Deep Sands Cafe, 23219 Arlington Ave., told police someone broke a kitchen window to enter the cafe and raid bowling machine and cigarette machine coin boxes. Several dollars in coins were taken, he said.

JAMES SAULS at Mom and Don's Cafe, 1975 Torrance Blvd., reported that thieves broke through a window of the restaurant and took about \$60 in coins from a cigarette machine and juke box.

Burglars climbed onto the roof of Fred's Coffee Shop, 22252 Palos Verdes Blvd., cut a hole into the restaurant section of the place, and looted cash boxes, registers, and cigarette machines, Fred Zierer told police.

HE SAID at least \$100 was taken from the restaurant cash register, about \$30 from a drawer below the register, and two bank sacks containing the day's receipts from the restaurant and the bar. Total loss was expected to be several hundred dollars, police were told.

Jim Wood told police that someone broke into Parrish Stationers at 1423 Marcelina Ave., sometime during the time the store was closed for the Thanksgiving Day holiday. Wood discovered the entry Thursday evening. Burglars had pried open a side door to narrow alley separating the main store from the warehouse and service area. It could not be determined immediately if anything was taken, police were told.

OFFICERS James Foster and John Brady were patrolling in the North Torrance area when they heard a burglar alarm ringing at the Alondra Market, 3606 Redondo Beach Blvd. Arriving at the scene, they met Tom Shiraga, owner of the market, who said someone had broken through a window, ap-

parently from the inside, and escaped. A check of the store was being made to determine if any loss was incurred. The officers reported that the window, through which the intruder had crashed in making his escape when the alarm sounded, bore blood stains, indicating the burglar cut himself in crashing out of the market.

IN STILL another incident, Walt Wehr reported that someone broke into a shop at 3238 Sepulveda Blvd. by breaking through a door to carry out seven ingots of metal and seven ingot molds. Total value of the loss was placed at about \$80, police said.

Betty J. Gilson, 2028 W. 165th St., told police Friday that someone entered her home while she was away shopping and removed an expensive console hi-fi set from her living room. Police theorized that someone used a truck to carry away the equipment.

## He Bolted Meal and Jailhouse

A 16-year-old burglary suspect whose mother had received permission of police to bring his Thanksgiving dinner to him in jail showed his gratitude later in the day by diving out an open detective bureau window and losing himself somewhere in the city.

Det. Lt. Donald S. Hamilton, who reported the escape, said Andre M. Vasquez, 2807 Martha St., had been under questioning about a number of Torrance area burglaries, and had confessed to several when detectives turned their backs on him for a moment.

Although wearing no shoes, Vasquez vaulted through the ground floor window and had disappeared by the time officers could rush out of the station to take up the chase. He was still at large yesterday afternoon.

## White House Poo-Poos Missile Shift Rumors

Reduction of the Air Force strength in the Los Angeles area is not anticipated under relocation plans for part of the Ballistic Missile Center of Inglewood to San Bernardino County, Wilton B. Persons, assistant to President Eisenhower, assured the city this week.

Commenting on the city's resolution protesting the planned relocation of the Air Force personnel, Persons said he had been informed "it was necessary to make room in the Los Angeles area for expansion of the Research and Development activities of the Ballistic Division."

The Air Force expects its personnel in the Los Angeles area to remain "at least at its present strength," he wrote.

Congressman Cecil King, in whose district the Inglewood facilities are located, this week blasted the proposed move as wasteful and unnecessary. (For details of King blast, see page 7.)

Persons' letter will be passed on to the city council Tuesday for its information.

## Bloodmobile Here

The American Red Cross Bloodmobile will make a return visit to the American Legion Hall, 1109 Border Ave., between 2:30 and 7 p.m., next Thursday, it was announced here yesterday. Appointments may be made by calling the Red Cross at FA 8-0510.

## DUE IN COURT DEC. 1

Forty-seven cockfight aficionados are due in court Thursday following a Thanksgiving Day raid by Torrance police, Sheriff's deputies, and humane society officers led by Det. Lt. Donald Hamilton.

Acting on a tip, the officers gathered around the field near 235th St. west of Crenshaw Blvd. and watched several fights through binoculars before roaring in on the scene. At least one and possibly more of the gaming crowd escaped the trap.

TAKEN ALSO in the raid were 28 gamecocks, including four dead and one injured; scales; betting markers; four-inch, razor-sharp spurs, and other paraphernalia.

The birds were taken to the South Bay Humane Society where they will be held as evidence.

Many of those arrested were laborers, cooks, and farmers of the general Torrance area, although some had come from as far away as Santa Ana for the event.

ALL WERE booked for violation of a penal code section prohibiting the use of animals for gaming purposes. All had been bailed out of Torrance jail by Friday morning. Bail was set at \$105.

A production line booking operation was set up in the squad room of the Torrance station, and half a dozen officers and matrons with typewriters spent more than an hour completing the booking of 47 suspects.

TWO JUVENILES, arrested along with the adults, were released to their parents.

Thursday's raid recalled one at the same place about three years ago when officers swooped down on a cockfight arena and rounded up several suspects at the scene.

## Chamber To Greet New Firms

Three new Torrance industries will be greeted officially Tuesday morning at the December breakfast meeting of the Chamber of Commerce. The meeting, scheduled to begin at 7:20 a.m., will be held at the Masonic Temple, 2326 Cabrillo Ave., according to John Schmidt and Bob Vroman, co-chairmen.

Scheduled to be feted at the affair are the Clauser Technology Corp., a new "space age firm" of the city; Murrey & Sons, manufacturers of bowling equipment; and Parco Plastic & Rubber Products.

## City Leads Area Chest Campaigns

With \$18,740 of its \$32,046 quota pledged Torrance now leads all other cities in the Harbor Area Community Chest campaign, according to Harold Frenz, Torrance chairman.

Standings of other local communities are, Wilmington 56 per cent, San Pedro 48 per cent, Gardena 45 per cent, Harbor City-Lomita 43 per cent, Rolling Hills 42 per cent, Palos Verdes 30 per cent.

The Residential appeal in Torrance, under the leadership



PRODUCTION LINE . . . Officers and Matrons of Torrance Police Department set up battery of typewriters in station's squad room to get mass production techniques in operation as 47 adults were booked into jail Thanksgiving Day. The men were arrested in a raid led by Det. Lt. Donald S. Hamilton on a gamecock arena set up near 235th St. west of Crenshaw Blvd. (Herald Photo)



AWAIT PROCESSING . . . End of the line of men awaiting booking stretched into the courtyard of the police station after gamecock raid Thursday. Here men prepare to dump their belongings into sack for inventory and entry on booking slip. All had bailed out by Friday morning. (Herald Photo)



CONFISCATED . . . Equipment used in conducting gamecock fights, including razor-sharp spurs, betting markers, identifying ribbons, and scales to weigh the fighting birds was confiscated by officers conducting the raid here Thursday. Also taken were 23 live birds, one injured one, and four dead ones. (Herald Photo)

## Firemen Praised For Work

The careful attention paid to her home and furniture by Torrance firemen who answered a blaze alarm at her residence while she was away drew high praise this week from Mrs. O. M. Schulz, 18528 Ermanita Ave.

Mrs. Schulz told the HERALD yesterday that she was out of town when neighbors noticed smoke spewing out the back door of her residence and called the Torrance Fire Department.

FIREMEN of Station No. 3 at 174th and Yukon Ave. answered the call, and found that a water heater had broken. They set up fans and emptied the smoke out of the house, moved furniture away from the damaged area, mopped up the floors, and had everything cleaned up by the time Mrs. Schulz arrived home.

That wasn't what she expected, however, she said. As the victim of another fire elsewhere earlier, she had visions of returning home to a water-soaked, grimy mess, she said after neighbors called her in Lancaster.

"This was really a pleasant surprise," she said, "and these men should be commended."

## BLOUNT TO SEE SOLONS

An effort to get federal restrictions on Torrance Municipal Airport lifted will be made by Councilman Willys G. Blount, chairman of the council's airport committee, during a visit to Washington, D.C., this week, he told the HERALD yesterday.

The councilman, a pilot and air industry booster, has an appointment with Sen. Clair Engle in Washington Wednesday, he said, and will attempt to see others who might assist the city in getting recapture restrictions lifted for parts of the airport.

"WE'RE NOT going to ask that the government waive any rights on the flight area, including the valuable landing strip," Blount said yesterday before departing for the east.

"However, we do need to get the recapture clause of the deed to the airport lifted for the commercial and industrial areas so that part of the airport can be developed," he emphasized.

AS IT STANDS now, he explained, potential developers of commercial or industrial property on the city's huge airport find that it is almost impossible to obtain financing for "anything but a hamburger stand."

Efforts of the city, combined with those of private industries, have succeeded in modifying the restrictions to some extent in recent years, but the way has not been cleared for full development of the Pacific Coast Hwy. commercial frontage and other areas which are not needed in flight operations but are needed for the development of an integrated airport, he said.

"THESE developers find that no one wants to risk financing for buildings and property which could be taken over by the federal government under its present recapture clause," he said.

Blount will be in the east to attend the American Municipal Assn. convention in New York City beginning today. He will leave New York after the final business session of the AMA on Tuesday night.

He will return to Torrance at the end of this week, he said.

## A Penny for your Thoughts

"What recreation at Sea-Aire Park do you like best?" This question was asked five youngsters at the Southwest park. Their answers follow.

Madeline Post, 11, 22303 Sharynne Ln.:

"I like the crafts here at the park best. The materials, paints and equipment are very good. I have made pot holders and plaques and have learned a lot along with having a good time."

Donnetta Walters, 10, 5105 Avenue B:

"I like to play golf the best of all. Next I like the crafts. I have had lots of fun playing here, but now that I have taken up golf it has me bugged. I like the instructors and last summer I played softball on the team."

Barry Schumacher, 11, 22909 Carlos Dr.:

"Football is my favorite sport and recreation at Sea-Aire Park. I am playing 'flanker' and like it a lot. I also play ping pong. I think it is good for my reflexes and makes me faster on my feet."

Larry Wheeler, 13, 22503 Gaycrest Ave.:

"Football is my favorite recreation at Sea-Aire Park. I play on the Sea-Aire Hawks. I play quarter back. We have a good field and a great coach. He is Larry Larnier and he led us to first place in our league."

Bob Thomas, 14, 21905 Marjorie Ave.:

"Golf is my game. I have learned a lot about it and the coaches have helped me. I shoot two under par. They have nice facilities and greens here. Of course, I like football and play it, too."

