

# Torrance College 'All But Dead'

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## Torrance Herald

Serving Greater Torrance — Capital City of the Great Southwest

**Romans Lined Up  
For Bug Wars**  
(See Page 54)

80th Year — No. 21

★★

OFFICE AND PLANT, 1619 GRAMERCY AVE. — TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 1963

10c Per Copy 64 PAGES

# SLAYER OF RIVAL RELEASED

## Jury Splits, Judge Orders End to Trial

A Torrance area housewife charged with slaying her love rival embraced her husband and left the courtroom of Superior Judge Lewis Drucker in Los Angeles Tuesday after the murder charge against her was dismissed. Mrs. Ellen Comeau, 40, 23014 Caroldale Ave., was in tears after Judge Drucker granted the motion of Deputy Dist. Atty. Sheldon Brown to dismiss the charge because "there is no additional evidence in this case."

A jury last week failed to reach a verdict in the case and was discharged.

MRS. COMEAU had been tried on the knife-slaying of Mrs. Clara Mae Toon, 24, of 20506 Raymond Ave., last Oct. 26, and had pleaded innocent and innocent by reason of insanity. Psychiatrists testifying at the trial gave conflicting testimony, leading Judge Drucker to refer to the case as "a dispute between experts."

In moving for the dismissal, after the jury had reportedly split 9-3 for acquittal, Brown had said the chances for conviction were remote. His belief was supported by Judge Drucker who said he had reviewed the case and felt a new trial would again result in a deadlocked jury.

MRS. COMEAU had testified during the trial that she could remember nothing about the Oct. 26 incident, saying she felt as if something had exploded in her head. She said the next thing she knew she was in county jail.

The stabbing had taken place in Mrs. Toon's home while her estranged husband, William, 24, and the couple's children watched.

## STORE HIT BY BANDIT

A masked bandit held up a neighborhood market Tuesday and made his getaway with about \$60.

Clerk Winifred Sudduth, 43, told police the bandit, wearing a dirty white handkerchief over the lower portion of his face, walked into the J and J Market at 803 Sartori Ave. about 6:50 p.m. and demanded money.

Sudduth took the money from the cash register and handed it to the suspect who left through the front door. The suspect displayed a weapon, possibly a sawed off shotgun or rifle, Sudduth said.

Fourteen-year-old Cheryl Sudduth, daughter of the victim, was in the store at the time of the holdup. The suspect was described as being about 20 years old, having black hair and of Mexican descent.

**Medical Group Meets**  
The Harbor Medical Assistants' Assn. will hold officer installation at their monthly dinner meeting at the Pen and Quill restaurant, Manhattan Beach, Tuesday, at 7:30 p.m.

## Oil Problem Seen as Bar To Site Here

Authoritative sources in Sacramento as late as yesterday indicated that Torrance's chances of securing the new South Bay State college are all but dead.

The 60-day adjournment of the site selection committee, after making a conditional choice of Fox Hills country club with an alternative on Palos Verdes Peninsula, raised hopes of Torrance representatives that they might be able to come up with some plan to save the college for this city.

While expressing appreciation for the vigorous presentation of the Torrance cause, one assemblyman told THE HERALD he did not think the Torrance boosters realized the stumbling block to selection of the local site posed by the oil wells.

"THE PROPOSED Torrance site has a serious oil situation on the south of Sepulveda and an impossible problem when it jumps north across Sepulveda." He gave it as his opinion that Torrance should have resolved the oil well problem some time ago.

"Relocation of the wells poses far too great a cost in my opinion," he confided.

THE FOX HILLS site selection also has some strings attached. Development of 150 acres surrounding the new college, if one of the two 18-hole golf courses is purchased, will be controlled if the state's \$5 million offer for 100 acres owned by Home Savings is officially accepted.

Funds for the new state college, it was emphasized, were allocated for a college to be located "in the vicinity of International Airport." The Torrance site, said another official, actually would overlap presently conceived service areas of Long Beach State.

LOCAL BOOSTERS, however, haven't given up the fight for a college to serve this area. A number of neighboring cities this week adopted resolutions protesting the Fox Hills proposal, and the Torrance City Council adopted such a resolution Tuesday night.

"This is a resolution that should be adopted by every city, Chamber of Commerce, and organization in the area," Mayor Albert Isen said.

THE RESOLUTION pointed out that the Fox Hills site, located at Slauson and Sepulveda, was in the northwest

corner of the college service area, bounded by Slauson to the north, the ocean on the west and south, and the Harbor Freeway on the east.

"Selection of a college site should not be made for the benefit of a particular property owner, but for the benefit of the students who will use it," Isen stated.

Councilman J. A. Beasley expressed hopes that the city may still come out with the college, pointing out that the Fox Hills site was above the Hughes Aircraft landing field and would be a hazard to the operation of the airport.

"I DON'T THINK the FAA will allow it," Beasley said.

Councilman Nick Drake, who first began to plug for a four-year college to serve this area several years ago, summed up the city's position and pointed out that an offer must be made to the state which beat those now winning favor of the selection committee.

And Councilmen Ross A. Sciarrotta Jr. and Victor E. Benstead Jr. added a pair of fighting slogans for the campaign, slogans that had a familiar ring:

"I've just begun to fight," Sciarrotta said.

"We can't give up the ship now," Benstead added.

## Earthquake Shakes Area

No damage was reported in a jolting earthquake which struck Torrance and other Southwest area cities Sunday night.

Hundreds of telephone calls were received by the police department after two shocks struck at 10:07 p.m. Center of the shaker was pinpointed by the Cal-Tech Seismology Laboratory as being about 45 miles from Pasadena.

It was also felt in the Gardena, Hawthorne, Lennox and Carson areas.



MISS TORRANCE HOPEFULS . . . Bobbet King, center, the current Miss Torrance, displays the trophy a lucky girl will receive when she wins the Miss Torrance contest which is under way. Participants so far are, left to right, Helen Salas, Linda Helton, Jill Drakowski and Sheila Greason, all 18 years old.

## Miss Torrance Selection Scheduled for April 19

A girl to reign as Miss Torrance will be selected April 19 when contestants compete in semi-formal dresses at the recreation center in the civic center.

Application forms for the contest, currently under way, may be obtained at the Chamber of Commerce office, 2204 Torrance Blvd., or by letter addressed to the contest committee at the chamber office.

TO BE ELIGIBLE, a young lady must be single, between the ages of 17 and 25 inclusive on the date of the contest, and be a resident of the city for a 90-day period.

Contestants will wear semi-formal dress and be judged on their over-all attractiveness, including poise, speech and charm.

WINNER WILL reign as a representative of the city at various civic functions. In addition to Miss Torrance, two other girls will be selected as princesses to assist at these events.

First major event the winner and runners-up will participate in will be the annual Armed Forces Day parade and celebration.

Flavio Bisignano is serving as general chairman of the pageant. The contest is not a bathing beauty contest but a quest for the young lady best qualified to represent the community in the opinion of the judges, Bisignano said.

## Courthouse Plans OK'd

Preliminary plans and specifications for the proposed county courthouse to be built in Torrance have been approved by county supervisors. Tentative cost figures presented to the county by an architectural firm were set at \$3,050,885.

The Board of Supervisors authorized presentation of final plans and cost estimates. The building will have nine courtrooms as well as facilities for the county clerk, district attorney, law library, public defender and sheriff's civil division.

## Armed Forces Day Planning Under Way

Appointment of chairmen to head up various committees for the city's Armed Forces Day celebration on May 18 were announced by Mayor Albert Isen.

While other communities are planning parades and ceremonies saluting our armed forces this year, the event in Torrance is the only military parade to fall on Armed Forces Day which climaxes Armed Forces Week," Rathert said.

The parade committee chairman is a big job in itself, according to Rathert. "Again this year, as in years previous, Lieutenant Cook of the Police Department is arranging for the vast parade of

units, the general chairman said.

In 1962, more than 80 marching units participated. These included military marching groups, drill teams, equipment displays and floats, and civic groups featuring bands.

Arranging for construction and seating in the reviewing stand is another important assignment for which Remelmeyer, city attorney, will be back this year to handle, Rathert said.

"Because we will have several nationally known dignitaries visiting again this year," Rathert revealed, "we must show everyone that the City of Torrance really knows

how to roll out the best welcome mat anywhere.

"The display area last year drew many thousands of interested visitors. Walter Nollac, city engineer, will be back to take care of that department this year.

"No parade would be worthwhile without appropriate trophies to be presented to outstanding participants. Orin Johnson, assistant city manager, again is obtaining trophies for this occasion.

"Bob Vroman, another veteran of past celebrations, is arranging for the annual armed forces luncheon which is held for distinguished guests.

"Lt. Col. William L. Geisert of the 132nd Engineer Battalion will serve as National Guard units coordinator, the same as in 1962. A new member of the committee is Col. Stephen C. Monroe, Los Angeles Armed Forces Information Office, who will serve as regular and reserve units coordinator.

"Summing up the fine committee we have, I can see no reason under the Southern California sun why our Torrance parade cannot be the great success that it has been in past years," Rathert said. "The experience and know-how of our committee chairmen is commendable."



CONGRATULATIONS . . . Supervisor Kenneth Hahn (left) congratulates John J. Preis, general manager of the May Company South Bay, upon his reappointment to a three-year term on the Board of Governors of the Otis Art Institute. In making the appointment, Supervisor Hahn pointed out that Preis is chairman of the 15-member board which is the administrative body of the County's Art Institute at 2401 Wilshire Blvd.

### A Penny for your Thoughts

"What do you think about the idea of the state speed limit being set at 50 miles per hour on three-day holidays?" the Pennies inquirer asked.

Ted Schwartzhoff, 2215 W. 236th Place:  
"I think it's a good idea because there are so many people out on holidays. Such a speed limit might put sort of a governor on speed. I kind of like the idea."

Mrs. H. S. Hollie, 18002 Gramercy Place:  
"Anything to slow them down. People who like speed would object to such a limit, of course, but any normal thinking person wouldn't. I think it would help save lives."

Mike Valencia, 356 Paseo De La Playa:  
"Sounds like a real good idea to help cut down the accidents on holidays. I'm for anything that will cut down on the number of accidents, especially on holidays."

Mrs. Ruben Paramo, Redondo Beach:  
"I don't think it's a good idea. I don't think people would obey such a law and it would cause more accidents than it prevents."

Dale Wallingford, 23008 Arlington Ave.:  
"It sounds like a pretty good idea. It might cut down on people's speed a little bit. I don't think such a law would be hard to enforce if they got the word out and people knew the limit was 50."

### Kiwanians Meet

Twelve hundred Kiwanians, including many from this area, will hear an address by Merle H. Tucker, president of Kiwanis International, at a banquet tomorrow at 7:30 p.m. at the Statler-Hilton Hotel, Los Angeles.

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### In The Herald Today

AFTER HOURS . . . 54	REG MANNING . . . 54
ARMED FORCES . . . 54	COURT MARCO . . . 54
ROYCE BRIER . . . 54	JOHN MORLEY . . . 54
CHURCH CALENDAR . . . 54	MORNING REPORT . . . 54
CHURCH NEWS . . . 54	OBITUARIES . . . 54
COMICS . . . 54	QUOTES . . . 54
DEATHS . . . 54	SCOUT NEWS . . . 54
EDITORIALS . . . 54	SOCIETY . . . 54
ART HOPPE . . . 54	SPORTS . . . 54
ANN LANDERS . . . 54	STAR GAZER . . . 54
LAW IN ACTION . . . 54	TALK OF THE TOWN . . . 54