

## 'MISS RHEINGOLD?'



LUCITA DECKEBACH  
PERFECT FIGURE: 35" - 25" - 35"

## LOCAL GIRL CHOSEN FOR 'MISS RHEINGOLD' CONTEST

Beautiful and talented Lucita Deckebach, 18, of 22522 S. Catskill ave. was picked from the Torrance area this week to try for top honors in the national "Miss Rheingold" beauty contest.

Lucita is being sponsored by the Lewis Carter School of Charm and Modeling in Hollywood. The Carter School, which was looking for a local candidate, chose Lucita from among eight girls who sought the honor.

### Reception

Lucita attended the first qualifying reception held by the Rheingold company in the Crystal Room of the Beverly Hills Hotel all-day Tuesday. She appeared before fifteen professional judges together with about 1000 other girls who are seeking the "Miss Rheingold" title.

All but five girls will be eliminated within the next week. These five will vie for the top spot. If Lucita is (Continued on Page 8)

## Gov. Knight Headquarters Opens Here

The campaign for the election of Governor Goodwin J. Knight was launched within the Torrance area by the appointment of Donald Armstrong, Atty. as Torrance committee chairman.

Plans are being made now for the governor's appearance in Torrance shortly. It was announced.

The Knight headquarters, Torrance National Bank building, 1329 Sartori, will be open (Continued on Page 8)

## AMERICA TO A GERMAN WAR-BRIDE

By MRS. TRUDY CLINKENBEARD, Guest Editor

(In order to air our civic goods, the Torrance Press is running a series of weekly editorials written by people of the community. Editorials may be submitted by anyone. All manuscripts become the property of the Torrance Press. We welcome ideas on any subject, controversial or otherwise. Editorials do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the publishers.)

After a two-year struggle to obtain my Exit Permit from the French Authorities in Germany, it was like a dream when I set foot on American soil. From then on it was just like a fairytale. After the years of semi-starvation during and after World War II, I was amazed at the great abundance of food and clothing.

My first chance to learn a little about the American government came during the 1948 elections just a few months after my arrival. I listened to both sides and I was amazed at the candidates' criticizing each other openly on the radio.

I was a little confused as to what to believe. People talking about the government and politics to their friends out in the open was something entirely new to me.

Since I only vaguely remember one German election in 1933, it was a surprise to me that the American people have the right to vote every four years for President.

It was more astounding to find out that the people not only put into office the man they want, but that they also have a right to voice their opinions in their own city government as to whom they want in office and how to spend their money.

There was more amazement in store for me after the elections. The Democrats won that year and the Republicans did not have to hide their feelings or turn Democrats to keep their jobs and their friends.

I saw my father once proud that he voted for Hitler and a few years later so ashamed, but it was too late to correct his (Continued on Page 8)

# 'WHITE-WASH' CHARGED IN BUILDING INVESTIGATION

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# Inspectors Fighting For Reinstatement

## 'HUSH-UP' CHARGED BY CITY ATTORNEY

The city council this week asked for the reopening of a case involving alleged building violations in a North Torrance tract. With the previous city investigation described as a "whitewash" by City Attorney James M. Hall, the city council called for an immediate state investigation.

Motion to reopen the investigation of tracts constructed by the Watt Development company was made by Councilman Willys G. Blount, seconded by Councilman Albert Isen, and unanimously approved by the rest of the city council.

Homes originally involved are those located in the following three tracts: 176th street from Prairie east to Ainsworth; 170th and 171st street from Cordary east three blocks; and 171st street from Casmir east about one block.

Residents in these tracts were the first to protest alleged building violations before the city council in November of last year. Following their complaints other homeowners in other sections of the city confronted the council with their grievances. This resulted in the eventual state investigation of the many complaints and the complete shake-up of the city's building department.

### Whitewash

The original investigation of the Watt tract was made under the direction of Building Inspector James S. Dresser. At that time the tract was given a clean bill of health. Dresser, since then, has been fired by (Continued on Page 8)

## Chucky Smith Drive Nets Over \$2000

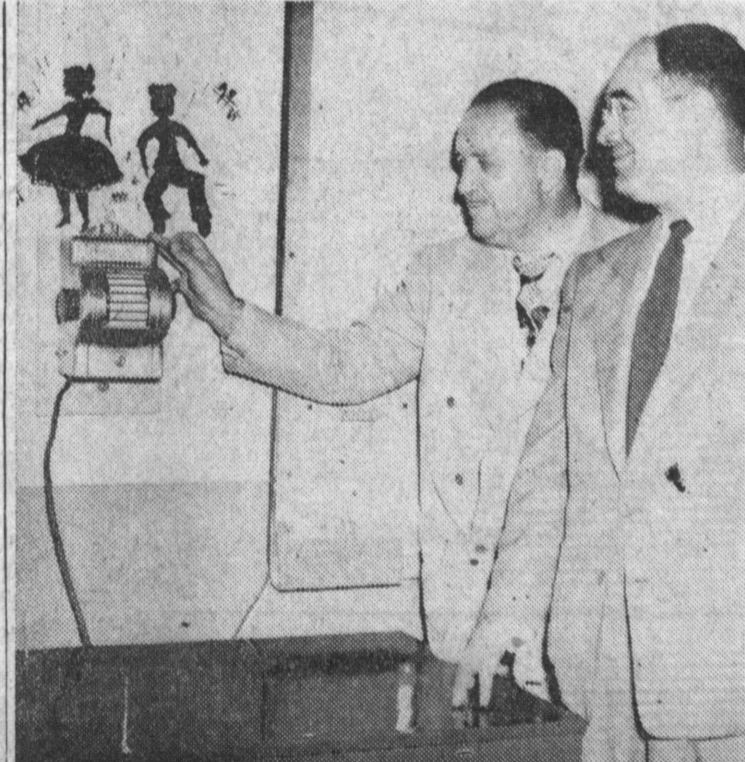
A concentrated effort to aid the family of Chucky Smith who has been incurably stricken with cancer has netted over \$2000. A check in that amount will be turned over to the family some time this week.

The announcement was made by Jim Whitmer of the Waleria Businessmen's association and Chief Willard Haslam and Sgt. John Maestri of the Torrance police department who organized the joint fund-raising campaign.

It was estimated that the final figure will be close to \$2400.

### To Pay Expenses

The drive to raise money for the Smith's of 3514 Cricklewood was started spontaneously by various groups upon reading of little Chucky's fate several weeks ago. The Smith's had plunged heavily into debt as (Continued on Page 8)



—Press Photo

A WORTHWHILE CONTRIBUTION: North Torrance teenagers will have a juke box to dance to at the McMaster park club house from now on. The juke box was donated to the group by Councilman Nick Draie and Al Gianni. Gianni's just about to play his favorite song.

## Teen-Center Presented With Juke Box By Gianni, Draie

Al Gianni of North Torrance and Mayor Nick Draie this week donated a juke box to the McMaster Park teen-age center for the benefit of the teen-agers in North Torrance.

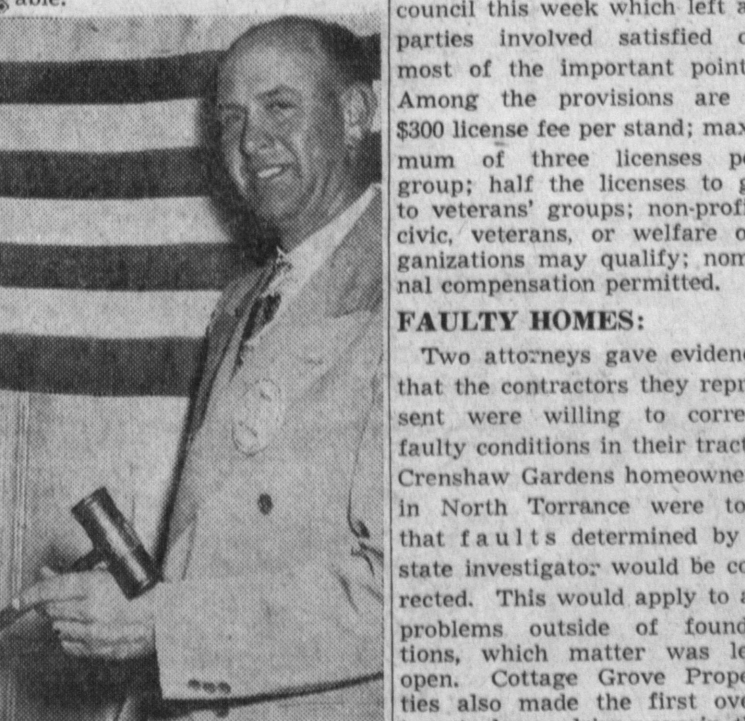
When they heard that the Nortens (a teen-age group) were trying to raise \$75 for a juke box by means of a cake-sale, Draie and Gianni went ahead and bought the equipment for the benefit of the center.

Gianni has been instrumental in assisting in many North Torrance activities. Both Draie and Gianni were the original sponsors of the North Torrance Improvement Association.

The two men plan to provide the center with shuffleboard equipment. They are also sponsoring one of the teams in the Babe Ruth National League now organizing here. The team of boys will be known as the Draie Angels.

Installed in office with Hancock were Jack Brown, vice-president; Frank Fischer, secretary; Don Whann, treasurer; and Tom Jones, George Olding, and Loring Bigelow, members of the board.

The club voted \$50 of its funds to aid the family of Chucky Smith, who is stricken with cancer described as incurable.



—Press Photo

NEWLY INSTALLED . . . Loring Bigelow (left) hands the symbol of office to Virgil Hancock who assumed the duties of president of the Waleria Businessmen's club at an installation-dinner held last Thursday evening.

## ATTORNEY CHALLENGES COUNCIL'S AUTHORITY

The city council's firing of two Torrance building inspectors was called illegal this week by their attorney John McCall. Petitions for their reinstatement were received by the council but action on the matter was postponed until the next meeting.

## Call Exam For Ass't Chief Post

A civil service examination for the post of assistant chief of police was called for this week by the city council.

This move came following Police Chief Willard Haslam's unwillingness to make a temporary appointment without the proper civil service procedure.

Haslam, who recommended the names of Det. Capt. Ernie Ashton and Det. Sgt. Percy Bennett to the council, refrained from naming either man because he did not consider the filling of the post an emergency.

It was explained that only in a case of emergency can a temporary appointment be made waiving the civil service examination procedure.

Councilman Albert Isen moved that Sgt. Bennett be appointed to the post temporarily and an examination be called. City Manager George Stevens explained that all appointments must be made by the heads of the various departments. Appointments are then approved by the city manager and the council. Only department heads are appointed directly by the city manager and the council.

Haslam stated that civil service does not like to hold exams for which only two people qualify. He believes that rules for this particular examination will be drawn up in such a way that police officers down to and including the rank of sergeant may qualify.

The petitions call for reinstatement of Building Inspector James S. Dresser and his assistant, Cecil W. Smith who were fired by the city council two weeks ago. At that time the council overruled a civil service board recommendation to reinstate the two men following a short suspension period.

### Interpretation

McCall is basing his appeal on behalf of the two employees on his interpretation of the city's civil service ordinance. The ordinance, he maintains, makes the board's decision final in any matter concerning a civil employee hired or appointed by a department head or the city manager.

Dresser and Smith were appointed to their positions by City Manager George Stevens. The council, therefore, cannot override the decision of the civil service board, McCall maintains.

### City's Position

The city council's firing of the two inspectors was based on a provision in the city charter which states that individuals in appointive offices may be dismissed upon the recommendation of the city manager. (Continued on Page 9)

## Demos Plan Breakfast For Thomas

Torrance Democrats will honor Representative Vincent Thomas with a breakfast to be given Sunday, May 23 at 10 a.m. The affair will be held at the Moose Hall, 1744 W. Carson street, Torrance.

Tickets or reservations may be obtained by calling Mrs. J. Buffalo, FA 8-5758 or Mrs. C. Weber, FA 8-1591.

## Walterians Seat New Officers

Virgil Hancock took over the leadership of the Waleria businessmen's association when he was installed into office at a dinner-meeting of the group last Thursday.

Hancock received the official gavel of office from Loring Bigelow, outgoing president, who presided over the meeting.

Installed in office with Hancock were Jack Brown, vice-president; Frank Fischer, secretary; Don Whann, treasurer; and Tom Jones, George Olding, and Loring Bigelow, members of the board.

The club voted \$50 of its funds to aid the family of Chucky Smith, who is stricken with cancer described as incurable.

## COUNCIL BRIEFS

### FIREWORKS:

An urgency fireworks ordinance was passed by the city council this week which left all parties involved satisfied on most of the important points. Among the provisions are a \$300 license fee per stand; maximum of three licenses per group; half the licenses to go to veterans' groups; non-profit, civic, veterans, or welfare organizations may qualify; nominal compensation permitted.

### FAULTY HOMES:

Two attorneys gave evidence that the contractors they represent were willing to correct faulty conditions in their tracts. Crenshaw Gardens homeowners in North Torrance were told that faults determined by a state investigator would be corrected. This would apply to all problems outside of foundations, which matter was left open. Cottage Grove Properties also made the first overture to lower drive-ways in the homes at Highway 101 and Crenshaw Blvd. The question as to the number of drive-ways involved has not been settled yet.

## Anita Aros To Appear At 'Miss Torrance' Pageant

Anita Aros, beautiful and brilliant young violinist, will play for the third annual "Miss Torrance Beauty Pageant" scheduled for the Torrance civic auditorium on Friday night, July 30. Miss Aros has made extensive appearances on radio, TV, and motion pictures.

She has appeared on the Ed Sullivan Show and Palace Theater in New York and has also featured at the Shamrock Hotel in Houston and the Biltmore Bowl in Los Angeles.

At present she is under contract to Spade Cooley and is his featured attraction on his weekly Saturday night television show. She is a gifted pianist and Spanish dancer.

### "Miss Universe"

Also appearing at the Beauty Pageant will be "Miss Universe of 1954" who is to be selected at the Miss Universe Beauty Pageant taking place in Long Beach during the middle of July. Miss Universe of 1954 will assist Sandra Constance, "Miss Torrance of 1953-54," in crowning the new "Miss Torrance."

Oscar Meinhardt, director of the Miss Universe beauty pageant, will be chairman of the panel of judges who will select the new queen.

Registration The Flamingo Florists, located across the street from the civic auditorium, will be the of-

ficial registration headquarters for this year's contest. Photo-Arts studio will again be the official photographers (Continued on Page 8)



ANITA AROS  
... to appear

## Patient Finds Nurse Through Classified Ad

The classified page is a terrific match-maker. It always brings people together who benefit from each other.

Mrs. C. C. Shockley of 4129 W. 147th street was looking for a practical nurse. She placed the following ad in the Torrance Press classified section:

HELP WANTED—Male or Female. Practical nurse, room and board, plus salary. 5 1/2 days a week. OS 6-7977

On Thursday morning, the patient had found a nurse and the nurse a patient. Every successful Torrance Press classified ad tells a similar story—and there are hundreds of successful Torrance Press classified ads every week!