

# Local Girl Named 'Miss California'

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# COUNCIL MOVES AGAINST ABANDONED OIL DERRICKS

## Ordinance Provides For Instant Removal

The first step toward ridding Torrance of hazardous abandoned oil derricks was taken Tuesday night when Mayor Nick Drale asked that the proper ordinance be drafted to eliminate the menace.

Because no adequate law existed, long-abandoned derricks continue to stand in the Torrance area, presenting fire hazards, sump hazards, and a menace to children.

### Measures

Judging from recent discussions of the matter the ordinance will call for the following:

1) Tearing down of all derricks which have no visible pumping means and whose wells are sealed off, within 180 days of their abandonment;

2) posting of an adequate "performance bond" at the time a well is licensed, so that the city will have money for the removal of the derrick if necessary;

3) delegating definite authority as to who is to enforce the ordinance;

4) make the city responsible for the removal of the derricks if the person responsible cannot be determined.

The council action follows in the wake of a long-standing campaign against abandoned derricks waged by the Torrance Press and brought to the attention of the public again in recent weeks.

### Severe Criticism

While the proposed ordinance will be directed primarily at abandoned derricks, wooden derricks as a whole came in for severe criticism.

"Every wooden derrick is unsafe," Councilman Victor Benstead declared.

Benstead's statement is supported by a recent article appearing in "Drilling" magazine, March 1954.

The derricks are called unsafe, "old fire hazards, unsightly skeletons that have been passed for the past 30 years..."

## LATE NEWS

**DUMPING:** Franklin O. Schuett of Lawndale and Harold Greenberg of Los Angeles were given citations for dumping trash on 190th st. each of Hawthorne blvd. last week. They will appear in South Bay municipal court tomorrow morning at 9:30 a.m.

**DISAPPEARING ACT:** C. R. Anderson of 2615 185th St. found two men making off with 700 inches of 4-inch steel from his ranch at 190th St. and Inglewood Ave. They admitted that it was a "mistake" and promised to unload it at another spot on the farm designated by Anderson. Once out of sight, however, the men kept going.

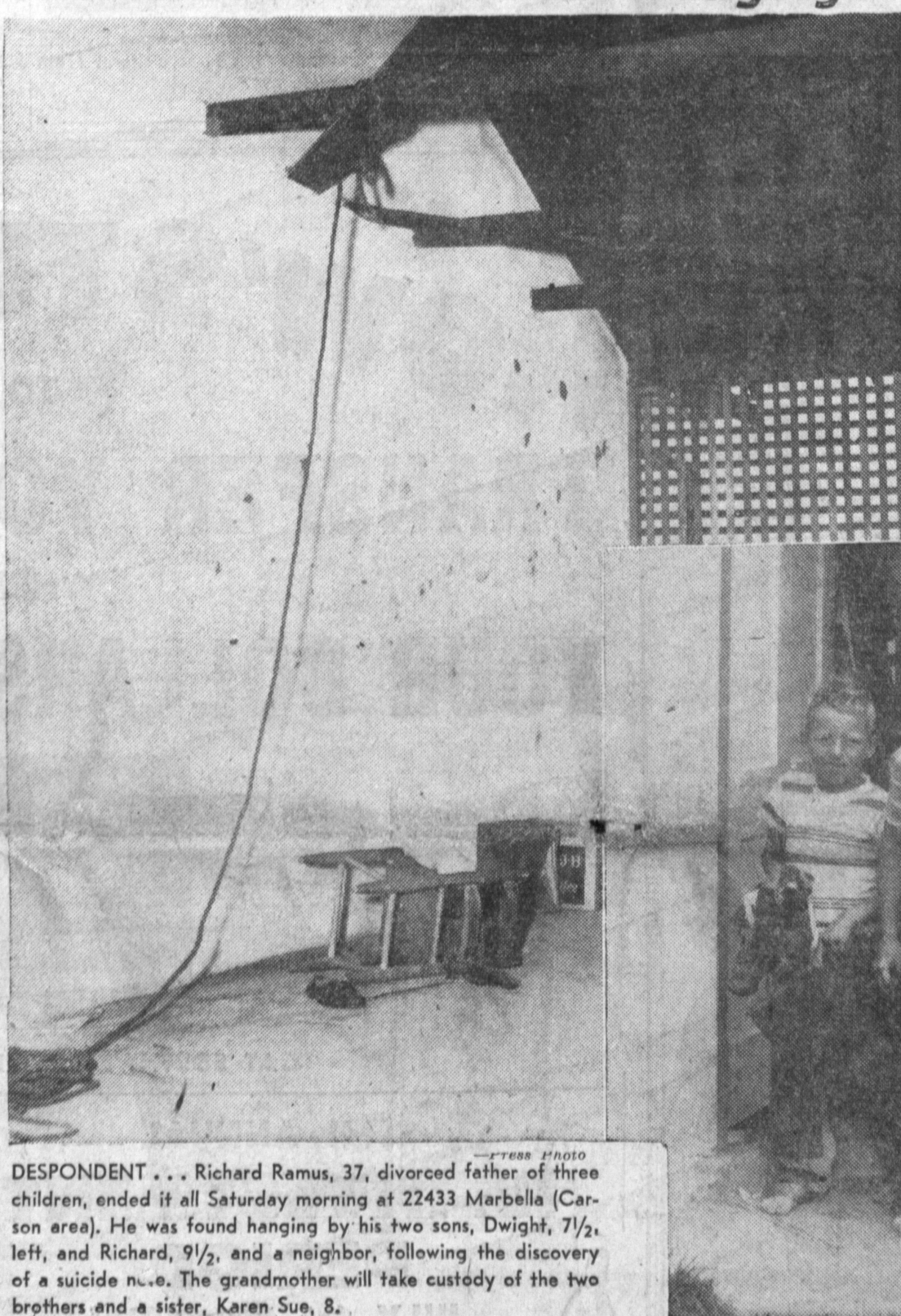
**CIVITAN INSTALLATION:** The Torrance Civitan club will hold its dinner-dance installation of officers tonight 7 p.m. in the Hollywood Riviera club. Bob Owens will be installed president along with other recently elected officers.

**PARKS AND RECREATION:** Within six months, money from the recently passed bond issue will provide the following: Torrance park—picnic areas, craft shelter, night lighting for ball park; McMaster—picnic and barbecue area, 3-room building, parking lot; Seaside and Welteria—building for 250, like Madrona school dining patio; El Retiro—2 tennis courts, night lighting.

**BAR EXAMS:** Three Torrance men were among 189 southlanders passing the state bar exams.

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## Children Find Father Hanging



DESPODENT... Richard Ramus, 37, divorced father of three children, ended it all Saturday morning at 22433 Marbella (Carson area). He was found hanging by his two sons, Dwight, 7 1/2, left, and Richard, 9 1/2, and a neighbor, following the discovery of a suicide note. The grandmother will take custody of the two brothers and a sister, Karen Sue, 8.

## NO TAX INCREASE PLANNED

No tax increase has been planned for the coming year, but... The estimated budget submitted to the city council calls for the same \$1.15 tax rate per \$100 of assessed valuation as was the case last year.

Added to this tax figure are the bond costs incurred by local voters when they approved the parks and recreation and fire station bond issues last April. The bond fee amounts to four

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STATELY QUEEN... Sandra Lea Constance, 18, is going places. She was chosen "Miss California" this week and now has a chance to compete for the "Miss Universe" title this month. Sandra entered the contest as "Miss Hollywood." A year ago she was chosen "Miss Torrance" in the local beauty contest, the first of her climb to recognition.

## Sandra Lea Constance To Compete For 'Miss Universe'

Torrance's Sandra Lea Constance, 18, wept tears of joy Tuesday night when she was acclaimed "Miss California" in the final competition at the Ambassador's Sun club. She will now compete with beauties from all parts of the world in the "Miss Universe" contest to be held this month.

### Former Triumphs

Sandra began her rise to pulchritudinal stardom when she was chosen "Miss Torrance" last year, in the annual local beauty contest.

She lent her glamour to the Gardena float during the Rose Parade and was recently chosen "Miss Hollywood" at the contest sponsored annually by the Los Angeles Press club. She entered the State contest as "Miss Hollywood."

### Vital Statistics

Sandra's vital statistics make pleasant seeing. She is 5 foot 5 inches tall, weighs 114 pounds, and has 36-23-36 measurements where it counts.

The judging was on the basis of beauty of face, figure, poise, grooming, presentation, personality and voice.

Sandra Lea was presented her crown by Gloria Maxwell, "Miss California of 1952" before a crowd of hundreds. Bill Best, (Continued on Page 7)

## COUNCIL BRIEFS

**MORTUARY:** Request for a variance to construct a mortuary at Engracia and Cravens will be considered next Tuesday night. Granting of the variance to the Halverson mortuary was recommended by the planning commission.

**USE TAX:** An ordinance (No. 699) calling for a use tax was tabled for two weeks for further study.

**PARKING LOT:** Expansion of the parking lot in back of the city hall for use of city vehicles was requested by City Manager George Stevens. The council will study the matter.

**MOUNTED MOUNTIES:** Police Chief Willard H. Haslam presented Mayor Nick Drale and the city with a framed photograph of Torrance mounted police. The picture and a trophy case will be placed in the city hall.

**ARLINGTON AVENUE:** A resolution was passed requesting financial aid from the county board of supervisors for the extension of Arlington avenue.

**SEWER DISTRICT:** A hearing on the Hollywood Riviera sewer district No. 1 will be held July 20. Total estimated cost of the assessment district was placed at \$228,353.90.

**AIRPORT COMMISSION:** Establishment of an airport commission was enacted by the city council Tuesday. Councilman Willis G. Blount was made chairman. Also appointed to the commission were Councilmen Victor Benstead and Marvin Schwab. Each of the four councilmen and the mayor will make one appointment.

**PROTEST:** The International Association of Fire Fighters protested the reduction in rank of Milton T. Langum. Langum, a member of the fire department, has asked for a civil service hearing. It has been charged that the demotion was discriminatory and unjust.

**CITY MANAGER:** A \$1000 salary increase was granted City Manager George Stevens by the unanimous vote of the city council.

## STORES CLOSE ON MONDAY

The fourth of July will fall on Sunday of this week but will be observed on Monday by downtown banks and retail stores which will be closed for the holiday.

## Deurloo 3rd Finalist In Press Shutterbug Contest

R. J. Deurloo emerged as third finalist as the annual Torrance Press amateur photography contest completed its third week. Deurloo, who lives at 24424 Park st., Welteria, submitted a night shot of the new First Christian church located at 2930 El Dorado.

The contest will last three more weeks with three more finalists to be chosen. Monday, July 19, will be the last day to enter the contest.

### Prizes

A first prize of \$50 in cash will be awarded by the Torrance Press when the contest ends. The winners of the top three prizes will be chosen from among the six finalists.

Second prize in the all-amateur competition is a Kodak Dual-flash F8 deluxe flash camera outfit (\$27.50). It consists of a camera, flash attachment, eight bulbs, two rolls of film, two batteries, and flash shield. Second prize will be awarded by A-1 Photo Supplies, 1312 Sartori avenue.

Third prize, consisting of \$15 worth of either film or paper or both will be awarded by Photo Arts Studio, 1311 Post avenue.

### Runners-Up

There will be three \$5 cash prizes for the three runners-up. Photo Arts, A-1 Photos, and the Torrance Press will each donate one of these prizes.

The contest, which will last six weeks, will be run on an elimination basis.

A finalist will be chosen each week.

## Last Three Weeks For Photo Contest

There are three more weeks to go in the annual Torrance Press amateur photo contest with three more finalists to be picked, one every week.

Everybody can get into the act. Photos should be of a local nature. Just bring your photos to the Torrance Press office at 1406 Cravens any time until Mondays at 5 p.m. in order to qualify for the Thursday edition.

The contest is open to everyone living within the circulation area of this newspaper. You may enter a different picture every week.

Photos should be on 8x10 or 5x7 glossy paper. If smaller, bring in the negative as well. All pictures may be picked up at the Press Office at the end of the contest.

Include the following information with your picture: name, age, address, phone number, explanation of the picture.

See story this page for details.

## IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR A MERMAID...

All the trailers in this area headed toward the Sea Breeze Trailer Park Thursday morning—or so it seemed to Mrs. Hazelton whose trailer park is located at 233rd st. and Meyler.

"I had to turn many, many away," Mrs. Hazelton remarked. The commotion was caused by an ad which she had placed in the Torrance Press classified section. It read as follows:

**SEA BREEZE TRAILER PARK**—Accommodations for large trailers. \$16 per month. Hot water included. Paved streets. Close to Harbor Hospital. Corner 233rd and Meyler.

You'll find that you could almost attract mermaids when you place an ad in the Torrance Press classified section—the pull is so terrific!

## Douglas Unveils Most Advanced Research Center

The newest and most advanced aircraft design center in the world was unveiled yesterday at the El Segundo plant of Douglas Aircraft. The center was built at a cost of two million dollars and designed for rooftop heliport operations.

## Police Station, Pool, Civic Center Asked

All the signatures needed to call for a special bond election for a police station, civic center, and swimming pool were filed with the city clerk yesterday.

Such an election will be held in September or October provided the official approval of the signatures is given by the registrar of voters.

The drive for reconsidering the two bond issues so narrowly defeated in the last bond election was spearheaded by Mrs. Herma Tillim.

The petitions call for consideration of a \$700,000 bond issue for the Civic Center, to provide offices to replace the crowded conditions at City Hall, Police Department, and City Jail.

### Pool

The second proposition which the petition requests be placed on the ballot is a swimming pool and bathhouse, which would cost about \$250,000.

In the April election, the Civic Center bond issue failed by 56 votes of receiving the necessary two-thirds majority. It received only 65.71 per cent of the votes. The swimming pool bond issue received 63.96 per cent approval, 159 votes short of adoption.

Mrs. Tillim said she was leading the drive for reconsideration of the proposals because of the urgent need for both facilities.

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## Ambulance Service Provided

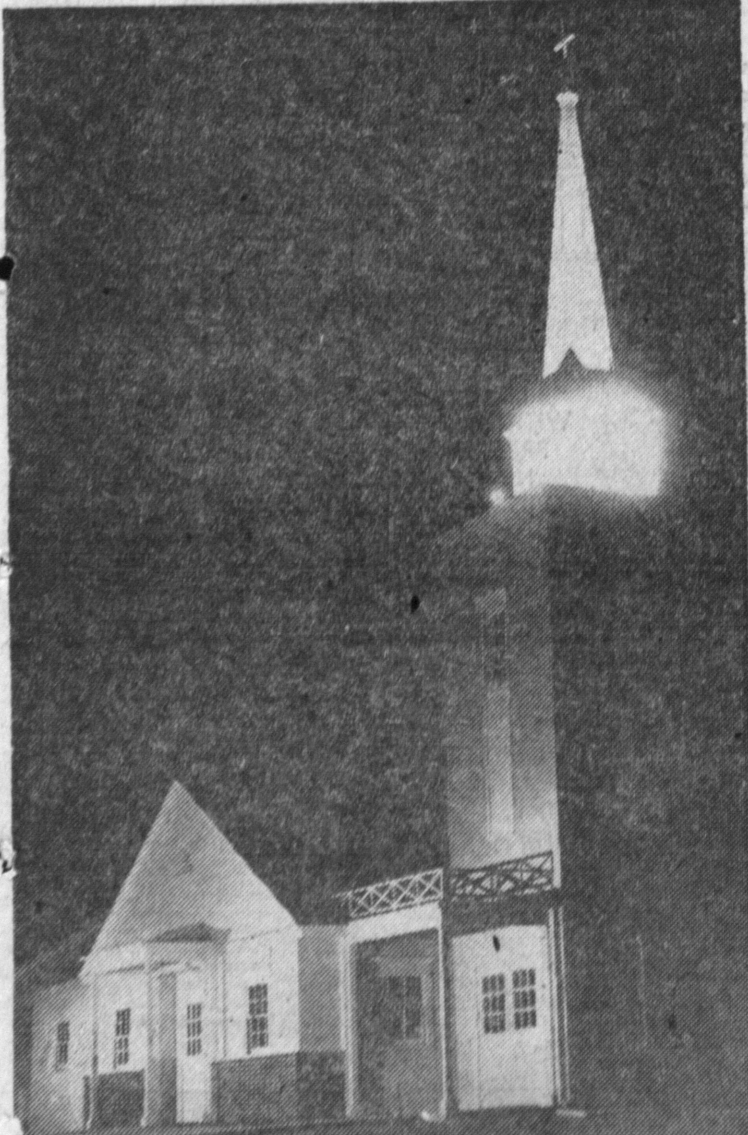
Obtaining ambulance service, guaranteed to handle all accident calls ordered by the Torrance police department, was approved by the city council last Tuesday night.

The need for a proper service which would be available to the police department without fail was stressed by Mayor Nick Drale several weeks ago. He asked that immediate steps be taken to contract for such service.

The Albert Taft ambulance service, which received the contract, will be paid by the patients. In case the money cannot be collected, the city will pay \$7 per call with a guaranteed monthly minimum and \$35 maximum.

Police Chief Willard Haslam considered this arrangement quite adequate. The reason why the Torrance police department

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FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH... This photo was taken by R. J. Deurloo of 24424 Park st., Welteria, third week finalist in the annual Torrance Press amateur photo contest. The contest will continue for three more weeks.

# Special Bond Election Seen For Civic Center