

MYSTERIOUS PHONE CALL Baffles DETECTIVES IN THEATER MURDER

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EDITORIAL

"FOR OUR CHILDREN"

On Tuesday night at 7:30 p.m. a group of teenagers will hold a meeting at the Methodist Church at El Prado and Manuel. A meeting which is mighty important to them. A meeting which might not only affect them, but the children of many future generations here in Torrance.

Presiding over the meeting will be 16 year-old Miss Shirley Johnson, president of a local teen group which is making a concerted effort to get the city fathers to act upon a proposal to build a teenage center here in Torrance for the youth of the area. And, as these things go, there are usually two factions which arise attempting to accomplish the same thing but in a modified manner.

The group over which Miss Johnson presides is attempting to get a teen center built and established in an area which would not only benefit the youth of Torrance, but the youth of other outlying areas.

On the other hand, the Mayor has indicated that some thought ought to be given a teen center in the new proposed Civic Center which, according to some, would benefit only the youngsters of Torrance.

There seems little doubt that both groups are working toward the same end—a youth center. And likewise, there is

little doubt in the minds of citizens that such a center is sorely needed.

At Tuesday night's meeting, citizens, (that goes for teen agers too) will be asked to express their opinions on the issues. They will be asked to tell the group over which Miss Johnson presides just what is wanted, what is needed, and how they might go about accomplishing a satisfactory end result.

This is a big task Miss Johnson has undertaken. It is one which, in itself is admirable. And certainly it reflects the civic pride this teen ager has in the community. The eyes of the community will be upon her. She is going to need all the support possible to solve the tremendous problems facing her and her group. And our hope is that out of the issues, no political ropes are pulled, no opposing factions are formed to mar the issues.

It is high time the community acts as a whole without opposing factions on this project. Because it could affect generations to come. Let's express ourselves at that meeting. Let's work out the issues intelligently. And let's do so with the same adult foresight and courage that is sincerely exemplified by Miss Johnson and the youth of Torrance who are behind her all the way.

Auto Hits Gas Pump, Runs....

Torrance Firemen averted what could have been a major fire early Thursday when a careening auto smashed into the gas pumps of self-service filling station at Western and Carson Streets.

Explosion

As the car hit the pumps, sparks from the electrical connections ignited the gasoline with an explosive force. But, before the car could be stopped, it sped away, leaving a wall of flame spreading to the other pumps.

Stubborn Blaze

Firemen responded immediately to the alarm and fought the stubborn flames for over a half an hour before it could be brought under control.

Jim Parker, attendant on duty at the time said his back was turned when the car sped into the station. On turning when he heard the collision, he said the car with two women in it rammed the pumps with so much force, that four of them went over.

Police have not been able to locate the hit-run car, which was described as pink and white.

Dragnet Out For Dope Users



PUMPS MOWED DOWN

Attendant Ralph Spears looks dejectedly at the smashed gas pumps which were mowed down by a hit-run driver early Thursday morning. The pumps exploded and caught fire. Firemen fought the blaze for a half an hour before bringing it under control.

—Press Photo

Raids Here Net Two

Police and Sheriff's Deputies, led by the son of a former Torrance Police Chief, began an extensive roundup of local narcotics users last night. And before the roundups were completed, one juvenile and one adult were under arrest with several more to be apprehended before the week-end is over.

Son of Former Chief

Sgt. Jay Stroh, whose father once served as Torrance's Police Chief led the all out attack on local narcotics users as police and sheriff's deputies all over the Los Angeles County were continuing the huge crackdown, which began last week.

Marajunas in Auto

The two persons arrested yesterday afternoon were allegedly caught in the act of smoking marijuana in their auto near Hawthorne and Pacific Coast Highway. Police said, they were en route to Welteria to make several arrests when they spotted the two suspects smoking the cigarettes.

In City jail is Richard Lee Waits, 19, of 14817 Avis Ave, Lawdale and a 17 year-old youth whose name was withheld because of his age.

Narcotics Users Wanted

The round up, according to officers will continue until key wanted narcotics users are apprehended. Police refused to reveal further details as to the raids until they have been completed. However, they did say they hoped to make several arrests in the Welteria area shortly.

Huge Round Up

The current local raids which come on the heels of the huge roundup now being conducted

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May Be Break Needed

Police were baffled last night by a mysterious phone call by a person purporting to have information which might lead to the murderer of 17-year-old John N. Edwards—the youth who was stabbed to death in a local drive in last month.

Call Received by Ashton

The call was received by Captain Ernest Ashton who said the man refused to identify himself. During the course of the mysterious conversation, Ashton said he tried to convince the caller to come in to the station and present his facts. But the man refused, saying he would go to the sheriff's office and present his "important" information there.

Personal Friend of Victim

Ashton added the man indicated he was a personal friend of the murdered victim, and that he was on maneuvers with the National Guard at the time of the murder. The information he wanted to give the police, according to Ashton, might have been important inasmuch as police have run up a blind alley attempting to find suspects in the killing.

Sheriff's deputies, according to Ashton, have not seen nor heard from the mysterious caller as yet.

Work of a Crank?

When asked if the police were considering this call the work of a crank or a publicity seeker, Ashton replied, "Who can tell." He indicated that it was impossible to have the call traced at the time it was received. Meanwhile sheriff's deputies are continuing their investigation in the case.

Stabbed in Rest Room

Edwards with his girl friend, Frances Clemons, and her brother Leo Clemons, were attending a local drive-in when Edwards was stabbed while inside the men's rest room of the theater, after a scuffle with several unidentified persons. He staggered out of the rest room, and fell dead a few feet away from an adjacent phone booth.

Mysterious Auto

Police initially rounded up five suspects but all were released after extensive interrogation.

Officers on the case revealed that about the time of the murder it was reported that one auto left the drive-in theater just before the exits were closed. The remaining vehicles in the theater were checked, but all failed to turn up any evidence on the murderer. The mysterious car has been the object of an all out hunt, but as yet has not been found.

One Case Of Asian Flu Reported

The Riviera Hospital in Torrance reported only one case of Asiatic Flu was hospitalized this week. But, the hospital adds, the patient had the virus in conjunction with diabetes.

Dr. Robert Nielson, Chief of Staff at the hospital announced that most of the staff have received shots for the asian flu.

Other hospitals in the Torrance area have not reported any cases of the flu being hospitalized.



MRS. WILLIE BICHRT AND SUSAN

A Story of Courage

BY TONY HABEEB

Susan Leigh Bichrt, was born yesterday at the Riviera Hospital in Torrance. Now, ordinarily the birth of a child is not news. That is, not news to anyone but the parents, and immediate close friends and relatives.

But, this baby is going to make news, and so will her mother. You see, Mrs. Bichrt, as the result of a childhood bout with polio, does not have the use of her two arms. But, she can manipulate her feet as well as you and I can manipulate our hands.

As a matter of fact, 18 year old Mrs. Bichrt—known to her friends as Willie, has been doing many things with her feet since her handicap occurred. She can write letters, and can do most anything around the house. With her feet she goes about her housework in the same manner as the average, normal housewife.

But, to most people, taking care of an infant is another matter. And the logical questions in the minds of most people including this reporter, are what about the diapers? What about the baby's bottle? How will the baby be fed? And to all these questions, Willie smiled and said, "You forgot to ask about washing the baby."

But, these are not problems to this woman. No sir! She says

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Scheduled Classes for Care of Sick

A Red Cross course in care of the sick and injured... emphasizing recognition of symptoms and convalescent care of Asian flu victims... is scheduled to get underway at Shell Chemical Corp., (Cafeteria) 19821 S. Figueroa, Thursday, Sept. 26, 7 to 9 p.m. Classes will meet Thursday nights only through seven sessions. Miss Conchita Silva, R.N., will serve as instructor. These announcements were made by Stanley Remelmeier, Torrance branch chairman.

"In making plans for the predicted Asian flu epidemic, public health administrators expect most persons who are affected by what they anticipate will be

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QUESTIONS and ANSWERS ABOUT TORRANCE

(Editors Note: Torrance is one of the fastest growing cities in the nation, expanding from a population of 22,201 in 1950 to 90,101 on July 1 of this year. Torrance now is ranked as California's 14th largest city. With this phenomenal growth, many newcomers to the area know little about the city, much less some of the important features in the community. In a little booklet titled, "Torrance Answers Your Questions," published by the Chamber of Commerce, most of these important facts are presented. Herewith are those questions and answers about Torrance.)

- When was Torrance incorporated? May 12, 1921.
- What form of Government? Torrance has the Manager-Mayor-Council form of government. (Mayor, 4 councilmen.)
- What is the present population? 90,101 (July 1, 1957).
- What is the average age? 25.6 years.
- What is the average education? 12.1 years.
- What percent of people under 21? Over 50 percent.
- Where is Torrance located? In coastal area 16 miles South of L.A. and 7 miles north of Los Angeles Harbor.
- What is the altitude above sea level? 75 ft.
- What is the average rainfall? 12.97 inches.
- What is the mean temperature? Winter 53. Summer 68.
- How many square miles within the City Limits? 20.8 square miles.
- How many miles of paved streets? 250 miles.
- What is the assessed valuation of Torrance? July 1957, \$144,083,390.
- What is the city tax rate per \$100.00? \$1.22.
- What is the combined City, County and School tax rate? \$6.813.
- How do fire insurance rates compare with neighboring cities? Very favorably.
- How many building permits issued in Torrance in 1956? 12,381. Assessed valuation \$490,718,814.
- What were the U.S. Postoffice receipts in 1950? \$216,894.91. In 1956 \$172,960.38. Fiscal year 1956-57? \$269,440.09. How many employees? 180. 1 annex and 2 stations.
- How many dwelling units in Torrance? 23,974.
- What is the Registered Vote in the City? 31,848.
- What city-wide celebration is held each year? "Ranchero Days" held last week in July.
- What special recognition given to the City? "All-America City" Award winner 1956.
- What large project is being undertaken by Torrance? Building new county court house, new parks, 88-acre shopping center.
- How many shopping areas in Torrance? 7.
- How many hotels and motels in Torrance? 10—255 units.
- How many newspapers? 2 bi-weeklys.
- How many miles of water mains? 110 miles.
- How many miles of sewers? 175 miles.
- How many business licenses in Torrance? 2,200.
- What is the domestic water rate? \$3.00 minimum per each 2 mo. billing. Included up to 1200 cu. feet.
- What is the domestic gas rate? Minimum multiple rate \$1.26 per month.
- What is the domestic electric rate? Among lowest rates in the nation. Average less than \$5 month.
- What is the supervisorial district in Torrance? 4th and part of 2nd.
- What is the assembly district? 68th and part of 46th.
- What is the State Senatorial District? 38th.
- What is the U.S. Congressional District? 17th.
- How many theaters in Torrance? 2 inside—seating capacity 1600. 2 drive-in—auto capacity 2,335.
- How many acres of City Park? 65 acres (35 acres in planning stage).
- Any beach frontage? 1½ miles. Lifeguard patrolled with playgrounds.
- How many Churches? 86.
- How many civic and service organizations in Torrance? 118.
- How many books and pamphlets in Public Libraries? 23,304.
- What health service available? Los Angeles County Health Department.
- What are the hospital facilities? 2 General hospitals and 1 County Hospital, bed capacity 896.
- How many members in the Police Dept? 80.
- How many members in Fire Dept. 74 and 4 stations.
- How many banks and Savings and Loan Companies in Torrance? 3 Banks and 8 Savings and Loan.
- What bus companies serve Torrance? Torrance Municipal Bus Lines, Greyhound Lines, Gardena Lines.
- What railroad facilities? Santa Fe, Southern Pacific, Union Pacific & Pacific Electric.
- What about airport availability? Torrance owns 5000 foot, all-weather, CAA approved airport.
- How many public schools in Torrance? 22 grade and 3 high schools.
- What is the public school enrollment—including the kindergarten? 21,000.
- How many other schools? 2 Catholic grade, 1 Catholic High and 2 Lutheran.