



MERCHANTS GO MAD!

Downtown merchants are trying on their flannel nightgowns today in anticipation of the Mid-Night Madness Sale which starts at the stroke of midnight, Saturday, Sept. 27.

Just to show how the mad merchants are flipping their lids, three of them, Del Nadeau, Bernie Lee and Paul Diamond, sported their night shirts when

they visited the Tom Duggan show to explain their zany plans. There they received admiring glances from Jean Rob-

ertson and Virginia James of Duggan's show.

The stores will be open from midnight until 3 a.m. for a three-hour period of zany business operations.

Some of the bargains to be offered during the madcap selling spree are so ridiculous that the otherwise astute businessmen don't even want to talk about them.

They did reveal though that some of the sales items will include phonograph records to be sold for three cents each, and autos that can be had for a dol-

lar, plus tax.

Not to speak of \$1 wrist-watches.

Refreshments
Del Nadeau, chairman of the mad midnight event, announced that most stores will serve refreshments during the sale.

One store is even offering 2 a.m. bottle feedings for the babies that accompany their parents to the downtown area.

The whole thing will be kicked off by television personality Tom Duggan, who will press the magic button that will

turn on the search lights.

Nightgowns
Several merchants will appear on Duggan's Channel 13 show to plug the event in their nightgowns.

Swarms of extra policemen will be on hand to handle the additional traffic.

But they won't enforce the parking meter restrictions, parking will be on the house that night.

Lending a touch of beauty to the whole crazy affair will be Margie Thompson, who has been named queen of the affair.

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PROBE BOMB PLOT IN TRACT

Court Action Threatened Against 'Purge' Ordinance

George Downing, ousted Civil Service Commissioner Friday conceded that he and his supporters are unable to obtain sufficient signatures for a referendum election, but announced that legal action will be taken against the law which purged him from his job.

He also lashed out at City Attorney Stanley Remelmeier for not issuing a clear cut opinion on the legality of the disputed ordinance.

Downing was fired from the commission by an ordinance amendment which cuts the terms of Civil Service commissioners from six to four years. Downing has served more than four years of his present term.

A nomination of a successor to the job was submitted this week to Mayor Albert Isen, and the appointment is expected to be made Tuesday.

Isen, who has been out of town for two weeks, nominated Richard Sagrillo, Walteria insurance broker to the vacancy.

Last Tuesday, Councilman George Bradford sought to rescind the disputed ordinance but failed in a 3-3 deadlock.

Bradford asked Remelmeier if the council had acted with due diligence in adopting the measure.

"If you're asking if the council was wise in passing the law

... it's up to the council," Remelmeier responded.

Afraid of Job
Downing snapped that Remelmeier was either afraid of his job or failed to obtain a legal opinion from other sources.

"Either he did not have the courage due to the balance of power on the council, if he knew the answer, or if he was not sure, we have an attorney general's office he could have requested an opinion from," Downing said.

The fired official said he opposed the change which will permit a simple majority of the Council to appoint and dismiss commissioners at will under the ordinance change.

Under the old ordinance, which Downing claims can only be changed by a vote of the people, it required a four-fifth vote to appoint and remove commissioners.

Injuries Fatal to Driver

Death of 19-year-old Duane Gibb, 23, fatally injured after his car wrapped itself around a power pole following a high speed police chase, raised the city's traffic death toll for the year to five.

Gibb, of 305 Bennett st., Compton, died Wednesday in Harbor General Hospital, 10 days after the crash at Pacific Coast hwy. and Hawthorne blvd.

The young driver received critical head injuries in the crash which occurred only five minutes after he eluded a police car during a high speed chase.

Officer Jerry Snyder, who gave pursuit, said Gibb drove his car in excess of 70 m.p.h. on Torrance blvd. The policeman lost the youth when the chase led to the downtown area.

Gibb's auto was completely smashed after he sideswiped another car, knocked down a traffic signal post and cork-crewed itself around a power pole.

Firemen, police and ambulance attendants worked more than 30 minutes to free the victim from the wreckage. Parts of the car were more than 100 feet away.

Female Quartet Jailed

It was "Ladies Day" in Torrance Municipal Court Thursday when Judge Donald Armstrong sent four women defendants, to jail, including one who fainted when she heard the sentence.

Mrs. Leona Bush Lawrence, 42, of 1223 W. 123rd st., Los Angeles, was given a \$263 fine and sent to the county jail for five days, on a drunk driving charge, placed against her following an accident at Hawthorne and Torrance blvds. Sept. 6.

The defendant collapsed in a faint when she heard herself sentenced.

Another woman, Christine Maggard, 24, of 2207 Normandie ave., was sentenced to five days in jail for allegedly driving without an operator's license.

Olive M. Larson, 54, of 6330 1/2 W. 79th st., Los Angeles, charged with hit and run driving, received a \$263 fine and five days in jail.

Mrs. Liza Flores, 28, of 3657 Emerald st., was sentenced to three days in the pokey on a disturbing the peace complaint filed against her by her landlady, Mrs. Betty Frenger.

The defendant was accused of loud screaming during the night. Police reported they had to carry her out of her house, and that she tried to bite one of the officers.

Contract Due on Lomita Blvd.

The low bid for improvement of Lomita blvd., between Crenshaw and Hawthorne blvds., was received from Norwalk Asphalt Concrete Co., for \$178,766, City Manager George Stevens announced.

The low bid was considerably cheaper than the \$200,000 estimate. County funds will be used to widen the major traffic link, and contract for the job is expected to be awarded Tuesday.

House Rented Right Away, Owner Happy

It took George Curren, of 25216 Eshelman ave., Lomita, only a short time to rent a two-bedroom furnished house after he ran a classified ad in the Torrance Press.

He received 10 phone calls from the ad, and was able to rent the house, to a suitable tenant right away.

If you have something to rent, buy or sell, call a courteous ad taker at the Torrance Press, FA 8-2345, and let her assist you.

Ticket Was Wrong, But Officer Right

A San Pedro housewife staunchly maintained her innocence when she was tried on a traffic violation, but volunteered that she was wrong in one respect—her conduct toward the policeman who gave her a ticket for running a boulevard stop.

Mrs. Beulah Mae Chavez, of 519 Palos Verdes blvd., Thursday offered her apologies to California Highway Patrolman Ronald Zion, during her trial before Municipal Judge Donald Armstrong.

"Your honor," the defendant said, "I was right in one respect, I didn't miss the stop sign. But I was wrong in the way I spoke to the officer. He was very polite, and I offer my apology."

In his report, Zion had quoted Mrs. Chavez as asking if he needed to fill his monthly ticket quota, when he cited her.

Judge Armstrong found her guilty of the charge, but suspended the \$6 fine.

Bids Called for NHS Fourth Stage Construction

Final plans for the last unit of construction at North High School were approved by the Torrance Board of Education Tuesday night, and bids will be sought within a month.

Officials hope that most of the facilities, which will cost an estimated \$1,350,000, will be ready for use by September, 1959. This is the fourth unit of construction at NHS, and will complete the North High plant, which will handle about 3000 students when done.

Construction will include addition to existing buildings, 15 more classrooms, an athletic stadium, and other site improvements.

The athletic stadium was included in the plans after the board was told that shower and locker facilities in it would help to relieve crowded conditions in the present gymnasium. Construction of the stadium now would be cheaper than building it separately later.

Earlier, the board had deferred building a stadium at South High because of the cost. Tuesday, the board indicated that the South High stadium probably would be included in the fourth and final unit of construction at NHS.

Planned in the North High construction are additions to the administration, library, multipurpose (cafeteria), and music buildings, as well as two buildings containing 15 classrooms. These will include special rooms for homemaking, office practice, speech and drama, journalism, and general science.

Thieves Loot Little League Park Refreshments

Thieves had a soft drink binge Thursday when they broke into two Little League concession stands at the ball field at 21011 Henrietta st.

Police said that between 40 and 50 bottles of one drink were consumed by youngsters after they broke into the Southwood National Little League concession stand. The empties were scattered all over the place.

Another 24 bottles of soft drinks were taken from the Torrance Little League stand, where the thieves also set fire inside the two-story structure, officers said.



BOMB FINDER—Joseph Wisniewski indicates where home made bomb was concealed in uncompleted house in new Lomita subdivision. The electrician found the bomb when he noticed some strange wire leading out of the inter-communication system.

Sump Golf Wash Machine Favored By Board

Recommendation that a 27-acre sump be used as a golf course, was made Wednesday by the Park and Recreation Commission at a special hearing.

The commission urged the City Council to give consideration to use the drainage basin as an 18-hole short course through a lease with Cecil Hollingsworth, operator of two courses.

The sump at Tower st. and Ronald ave., could be constructed in such a way so that nine holes on the perimeter could be used the year around. The interior nine holes would not be usable during the rainy season, under the sketches submitted by Hollingsworth.

Hollingsworth presently operates the Alondra Park and Meadowlark golf courses.

Wash Machine Thief Hearing Set for Tuesday

An admitted narcotics addict, who allegedly financed his \$40 a day habit by breaking into apartment house washing machines, will face preliminary hearing in South Bay Municipal Court Tuesday.

John David Thompson, 21, of 1603 W. 79th st., was arrested by Torrance Detective Ralph Walker and sheriff's narcotics officers in his home.

Police said that the suspect admitted breaking into 10 to 15 washing machine coin boxes a day for the past eight months to finance narcotics.

The suspect was equipped with a bunch of keys for machines, and those for which he had no key, he used to pick the lock, police said. Most of the Torrance burglaries were in the northside.

Probers Hunt for Motive

Puzzling lack of an apparent motive stunned investigators today as they continued their probe into a Lomita bomb plot.

A home-made explosive device was concealed in one of the houses in the 44-home Starlite subdivision, and only the alertness of an electrician prevented what might have become a death trap.

The bomb was found by Joseph Wisniewski, of 13023 Haas ave., Gardena, while he worked on the house under construction at 25223 Andrea st., Lomita.

Sheriff's detectives said the home-made device was set up so that it could be triggered by turning on a switch to the inter-communications system.

Pipe Used
The explosive was contained in a piece of six-inch pipe, capped on both ends, and using white cotton stuffing. The pipe was lowered inside the wall of the house.

Wisniewski said that he noticed something wrong when he spotted yellow and red wires which didn't belong there. He called in Francis Stutler, superintendent for the Dan E. Butcher Construction Co., of Torrance, which is building the houses.

They snipped the wires, after noticing the bomb, and called sheriff's officers.

No Motive
Howard J. Percy, Torrance realtor whose firm is the sales agent for the tract, said that he has not the faintest idea why the bomb had been placed in the house.

"There's a reason for it, but I don't know it," he declared. "He said he had been showing the house to prospective buyers, along with others. The houses are to be ready in about two weeks."

Spokesmen for the Butcher Construction Co., also said they knew of no reason for the bomb-planting. They said there had been no labor disputes on the job.

Marine Robbed of Cash by Bandit

A Marine was robbed of \$100 in cash, only minutes after he cashed his paycheck, early Saturday morning.

Stanley Vernon Holm, 27, said he was driving to his home, 2442 W. 250th st., Lomita, when he stopped for a boulevard stop at Narbonne ave. and 250th st.

As he did, the suspect, who had been loitering in a service station at the corner, opened his door, stuck a .38 caliber revolver into the car, and forced Holm to turn over his cash.