

TORRANCE PRESS

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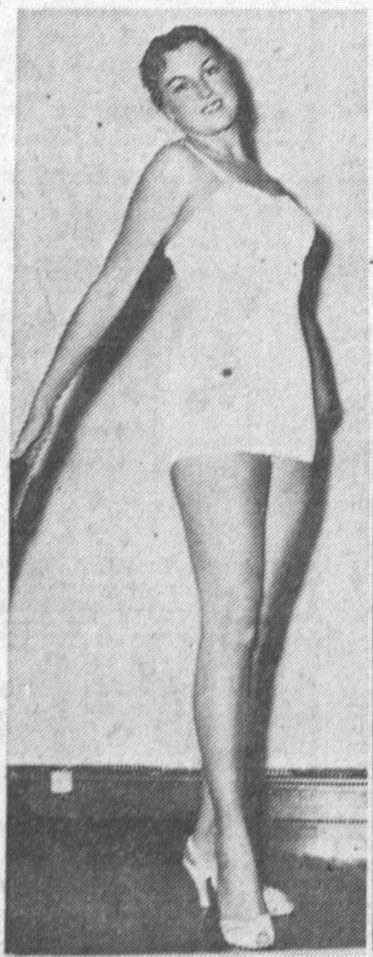
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Miss Torrance Contestants



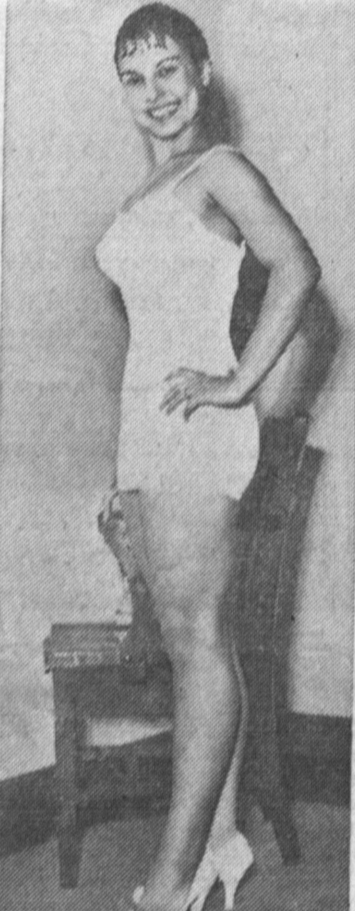
CHARLENE HACKBUSH



BETTY BAKER



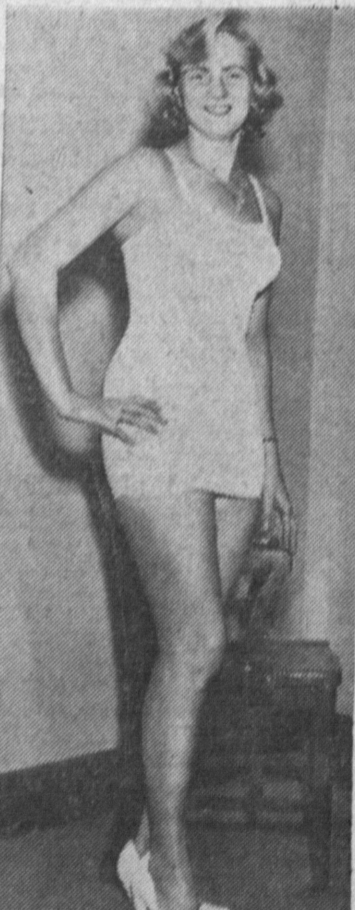
JOYCE CANNON



DIANE HUNTER



JUDY RAYMOND



JACQUE VAN CAMP

Fog Contributes to Huge City Traffic Accident Toll

One Dies, 9 Hurt in Accidents

One man was killed and nine injured in a string of traffic accidents, many of them caused by a heavy fog which socked in the city Thursday and Friday mornings.

Pronounced dead on arrival at Harbor General Hospital Thursday afternoon, was Neal Nels Haro, 48, of 3356 N. Angeles St., San Gabriel.

He was reportedly running across Pacific Coast Hwy. in front of South High School, when he was struck by an auto driven by Meyer Maurice Waterman, 62, of 103 Vista del Mar, police said.

Administer Rites

Haro, who allegedly was carrying a bottle of wine, was hurled 48 feet into the air, officers reported.

An unidentified priest administered last rites at the scene. Waterman was not held by police.

Haro's death marked the seventh traffic fatality in Torrance in 1958, and occurred only two days after a Welteria boy was killed in a similar accident.

Police recorded 12 non-injury accidents Thursday, when traffic was snarled by the intense fog. Only one of the collisions Thursday morning caused injuries.

Car-Truck

This occurred in a collision between a car and a truck at Torrance Blvd. and Amie Ave.

James Theodor St. Claire, 51, of Redondo Beach, driver of the car, and Jay Bernard Strimpier, 20, the truck driver, told police they would consult their own doctors.

Six persons were injured in a four-car crash on Torrance Blvd. near Elm St. Thursday afternoon.

They included two of the drivers, Raymond E. Diale, Jr., 32, of Redondo Beach, and Virginia Anne Leech, 19, of Manhattan Beach, and four passengers.

Police said they were Lawrence Kitchell, 42, of Manhattan Beach, Ralph W. Immel, 43, of Manhattan Beach, Marjorie Steele, 54, of Manhattan Beach, and Lois Smith, 27, of Redondo Beach.

The other two drivers involved in the pile-up were Roy Clemons Gibson, 32, of 5029 Lenore St., and Ralph C. Schumacher, 28, of Redondo Beach, police reported.

Another pedestrian, Lovd Ellis Baldwin, 26, of Hawthorne, was struck down by a car driven by Alberta E. Griffin, 35, of Rolling Hills at Pacific Coast Highway at Ward St., Friday afternoon, police reported. He was taken to Pacific Medical Group.

Realtors Named to State Posts

Rose Craig of Rose Craig Realty, 1747 Pacific Coast Hwy., Lomita, and Lee Dawson of Alter Realty and Insurance, Torrance, have been named by the California Real Estate Association as state directors for 1959.

Mrs. Craig will work on the public relations committee, and Dawson will work on the multiple listing committee. Geneve Mears of Shaw Real Estate and Charles Mumford of Mumford Real Estate were named as salesman directors and will work on the multiple listing committee.

New Teachers to Be Recruited

Three officials of the Torrance Unified School District will be dispatched on a transcontinental teacher recruiting expedition early next year.

Robert C. Morton, director of personnel and Frederick Cypert, curriculum consultant, will be dispatched to midwestern and eastern universities to sign up new teachers for next year. At the same time, James G. Sibert, personnel assistant will do his recruiting at California universities and colleges.

Residents Rush Aid To Family

Their Welteria neighbors are going all out this week to bring as much cheer as possible to the grief-stricken family of Bobby Plunkett, 10, who was killed in a traffic accident Tuesday.

A spontaneous collection, to help the Plunketts, of 23501 Madison St., cope with a series of tragic reverses, was started by Mrs. Chet Kohler, of 24225 Park St., who has known Mrs. Plunkett for 27 years.

Bobby was buried Friday afternoon in Green Hills Memorial Park following the graveside services attended by many of his friends in Cub Pack 240-C to which he belonged.

His mother, Mrs. Carl Plunkett, a Welteria resident since 1925, is expecting another child within the next few weeks, and recently had to undergo major surgery.

The father has had to accept a lesser paying job because his regular occupation of driving a truck to transport oil, was eliminated sometime ago, at least temporarily, due to a shut-down of the field.

Realizing that the Plunketts are faced with a number of hospital bills, Mrs. Kohler, and another resident, Mrs. Margaret Malia, of 3421 Cricklewood St., started a spontaneous neighborhood effort to help the Plunketts provide a nice Christmas for their other three children.

Youth Convicted of Robbery, Rape

A 16-year-old Colorado youth was found guilty of robbery, rape and assault charges but cleared of attempted murder charges in Long Beach Superior Court Friday.

Wilburn A. Henderson, who will be sentenced early next month by Superior Judge Joseph Malby, was found guilty of three of the four charges by a six-man jury following four hours of deliberation.

The run-away youth from Colorado was accused of the crimes against a 15-year-old South High School co-ed last Aug. 28.

Henderson, apparently only a casual acquaintance of the girl, was accused of shooting the girl when she screamed for help.

He later fled after pistol-whipping a boy friend of the girl who rushed to her assistance, and disguised himself by changing clothes and getting a "butch" haircut.

Miss Torrance Contest to Be Changed for 4th Time

Only six contestants are left in the running for the Miss Torrance contest which has been reshuffled for the fourth time. Judging of the beauties will be held Dec. 22 in the banquet room of the Palms Restaurant at 8 a.m.

The latest change was made after James Van Dyke, director of the Torrance Area Youth Band, which was to have shared proceeds with the Tournament of Roses float fund, announced that he has to go out of State on business.

Van Dyke turned over the contest to the Chamber of Commerce.

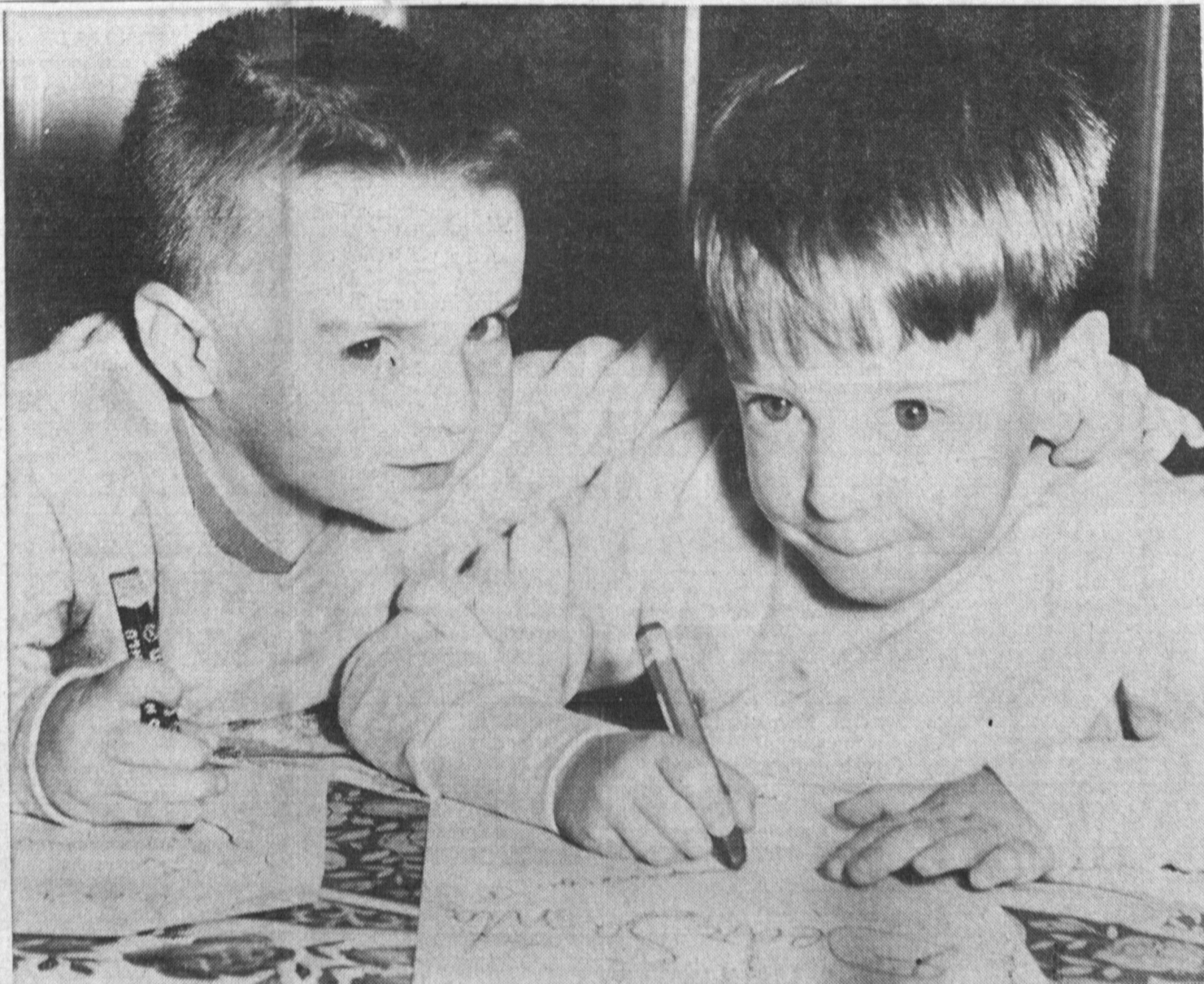
Contenders for prizes and the honor of riding on the Torrance float on New Year's Day are Betty Baker, Joyce Cannon, Charlene Hackbush, Diane Hunter, Judy Raymond and Jacque Van Camp.

Two Dropped

The unusually small field has been further chopped down by the withdrawal of one entrant, and the disqualification of another because of residential requirements.

Judges will be the girl's sponsors, who will be prohibited to vote for their own entry.

Although a few tickets for the event have been sold, the money will be refunded, Chamber of Commerce officials said.



DEAR SANTA—"We want a train, and maybe a fire engine." That's the request penned to St. Nick by Henry Moreta, 4 1/2, and Albert, 3, sons of Mr. and Mrs. Albert J. Moreta, of 1204 Cranbrook Ave. Like thousands of other youngsters who place

their faith in Santa, and others who pin their hopes on mom and dad, they are making out a long, long list of items they hope to find in their Christmas stockings. Press-Photo

Mother in Death Charge Released to Doctor Dad

Mrs. Virginia S. Gordon, 35, arrested on suspicion of murder following an alleged attempt to kill her two children and herself, was released by Torrance police Thursday.

She was released to the custody of her father, Salvador C. Sunseri, M.D., a Pittsburgh, Pa., physician, who arrived by plane to assist his daughter.

Detectives said that Dr. Sunseri is expected to take Mrs. Gordon back east with him and arrange for psychiatric treatment.

Refuse Complaint

Dep. District Atty. T. B. McNary Thursday refused to issue a complaint against the woman, on grounds that she appeared to be emotionally disturbed at the time of the incident, police said.

Mrs. Gordon, of 4918 Paseo de Paven, was arrested Tuesday after she assertedly told detectives she had intended to kill her

two children, Virginia Lee, 4, and Douglas, 12.

She fed each of the children six sleeping tablets, and then attempted to take her own life with an eight-inch butcher knife, she told investigators. When she failed at that, she took six sleeping pills herself.

When police arrived at the home Tuesday night, they said the mother and children were awake but in a groggy state.

A neighbor, Howard Williams, of 4912 Paseo de Paven, summoned police after he said he had not seen any of the Gordons all day Tuesday.

The children, who were released from Harbor General Hospital, where they had been treated, were turned over to their father, Millard, a Redondo Beach engineer, who had been separated from his wife since Aug. 1.

Mrs. Gordon had been granted temporary custody of the children, pending outcome of their divorce proceedings.

Hot Rodder Can't Race Motor for Three-Year Term

Robert Bornkamp, 20, will have to keep his hot rod more quiet for the next three years, Municipal Judge Donald Armstrong ordered Friday.

The television technician of 3220 W. 185th St., was found guilty by a jury of disturbing the peace of his neighbors, by racing his engine and squealing his tires in the driveway.

The disturbance complaint was signed by Russell M. Fowler, of 3224 W. 185th St., who said the noise kept him awake at night.

Bornkamp was convicted of a similar offense two years ago.

Judge Armstrong suspended a 180-day jail sentence, fined him \$100 and placed him on three years probation.



NO NICKELS HERE—Dorothy Peters, whose regular job is that of enforcing the parking meter ordinance, happily ties a red bow to a paper sack which covers parking meters during the holidays. A moratorium on dropping pennies and nickels into the meters was declared by the City Council, assuring free parking to holiday shoppers. Press-Photo

Sump Swap Still Under Study

Subdivider Don Wilson's offer of recreational sites was taken under submission by the City Council this week.

Instead of paying \$38,000 cash for park sites, as required by the city ordinance, Wilson offered to give the city two sumps, totaling 18 acres, and approximately \$7600 in cash.

Wilson offered an 11-acre sump in his new subdivision in

West Torrance, and said he would make arrangements to obtain full interest in either the Bishop, Montgomery or Ocean Ave. sump and deed it to Torrance.

NIKE MEN ON DUTY

National Guardsmen at the Nike base in Torrance will remain on duty Christmas day and will hold their party on the site.

Thank You Note

An Editorial

Torrance Councilmen have won themselves the gratitude of numerous motorists who have expressed delight at the free parking provided during the Christmas shopping rush.

By order of the majority of the City Council, paper sacks, wishing motorists a Merry Christmas from the city, are covering the usually money-hungry parking meters.

For a few days at least, residents who like to do their shopping in Torrance do not have to put pennies and nickels into the meters, and won't have to worry about receiving citations for over-time violations.

The free parking will continue until Christmas, after which, alas, the meters will again have to be fed.

Councilman George Bradford, who initiated the free holiday parking, as well as Mayor Albert Isen and Councilman J. A. Beasley and Nickolas O. Draie deserve praise for their constructive action.

William Tell Program

An archery contest involving shooting an apple off a dummy's head, was recently held by Torrance High School girls as part of their physical education program.