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ALMOST MISSED IT—Douglas Wilson blows out candles on his fourth birthday cake. Only the night before the boy swallowed contents of an ant poison bottle and had to have his stomach pumped to save his life. —Press Photo

Boy, 3, Almost Did Not Fete Birthday

Douglas Wilson almost didn't live to celebrate his fourth birthday Thursday.

On the night before, the son of Policeman and Mrs. Philip Wilson was playing at a neighbor's home and he found a tempting bottle filled with a sweet solution.

Douglas didn't know that this was ant poison and not a new kind of soda pop.

When he returned to his own home, 5243 Doris Way, he held the empty bottle of ant poison in his hand and showed it to his mother.

A speedy interrogation, and testing of the boy's tongue disclosed to the parents that Douglas must have consumed some of the poison.

They poured a salt solution into his mouth and then rushed him to Pacific Medical Clinic where Douglas' stomach was pumped.

"If he hadn't carried that bottle we would never have known about the poison," the father said.

But all turned out well and Douglas was in fine shape to blow out the four candles on his birthday cake at a party Thursday.

No Complaint Sought Against Hog Farm Sump

City Attorney Stanley Remelmeier said that he will advise the City Council Tuesday against filing a complaint against owners of a former hog ranch following councilmanic charges that dairy sewage is collecting there.

Remelmeier said he had been informed that a deep excavation inside the hog farm on Madrona Ave. north of Spencer St., will be filled by Sept. 1, and that in fact fill dirt is now being hauled in.

He said that he was also informed that the ponding does not constitute a health hazard.

Councilman Willys Blount Tuesday called for action, asserting that sewage is being conveyed into the excavation from a dairy to the north of it.

FIGHT GRASS FIRE

A grass fire at the Columbia-Geneva property at Torrance Blvd. and Western Ave. was extinguished Thursday by firemen. No damage was reported.

Ranchero Days Conclude with Today's Activities

Torrance Ranchero Days will close tonight after attracting crowds of thousands during its five day run which opened Wednesday.

Activities during the final day will be highlighted by the second performance of a championship rodeo, a wild animal circus and midway activities.

Several thousand persons last night watched the colorful invitational parade which had more than 1000 participants including 11 bands and drill teams, marching and equestrian units.

Midway activities at the fair in the civic center included 23 thrill rides, games and concession stands operated by local organizations.

Today's rodeo will start at 2 p.m. It is sanctioned by the Rodeo Cowboys of America.

Thirty organizations are co-sponsoring the Ranchero Days and will turn over 25 per cent of their receipts to the Tournament of Roses float from Torrance. In addition, the Chamber of Commerce will donate its entire reve-

Forcible Trash Pick-up Policy Brings Deadlock

Councilmen split evenly Tuesday on the question whether a property owner can be forced to pay for municipal rubbish service against his will.

The deadlock occurred when Wade E. Peebles, director of public works, recommended that a request by a former Hermosa Beach councilman to be exempted from payment for unwanted service be denied.

Alfred E. Neuman said that he wants to switch to private collection for his apartment house at 306-10 Calle Miramar, because he can not go to the property every pickup day to return the containers to their regular place.

The former city official conceded that it will cost him more for the private collection but that it will be more convenient for him.

Peebles said that present ordinance allows no exemptions from the municipal service except where the city can not economically operate.

"I don't see how you can force a man to take our service," argued Mayor Albert Isen against a motion to concur with Peebles.

"We've had a policy that allows no exceptions," countered Councilman Nicholas O. Dralle.

"But it can be upset by a court," Isen retorted.

With Councilmen Vic Benstead absent, the council deadlocked 3 to 3 on the issue and ordered the request filed.

Demand Freeway Speed-up

Sympathy, but no promises, were received by a delegation which pitched for the completion of the missing link of the Harbor Freeway Thursday.

Specifically the Harbor area group asked that funds be allocated to complete the five mile segment of the freeway between 190th St. and Pacific Coast Highway during an appearance before the State Highway Commission.

Fidel Schmitz, of Wilmington, spokesman for the group pointed out that with a daily load of 192,000 cars, the Harbor Freeway is now the busiest in the State. He said that it will be even more traveled when the link between 124 and 190 Sts. is opened next summer.

Councilman J. A. Beasley of Torrance, said that the right-of-way and preliminary engineering has already been completed and that all that is needed now is an appropriation of \$7,500,000 to construct the freeway.

The delegation was backed by Assemblyman Vincent Thomas and representatives of County Supervisors Kenneth Hahn and Burton W. Chace.

Torrance delegates who attended the hearing included Mayor Albert Isen, J. H. Faget, president of the Chamber of Commerce and William J. Hanson, president of the Hollywood Riviera Home Owners Association.

Horse Collides with Car, Girl Rider Flung Off

A 14-year-old girl escaped with minor injuries when she fell off a horse after the animal collided with an automobile.

Lita MacDonald, of 2467 Myrtle St., Hermosa Beach, was flung from the horse which ran into a car at Torrance Blvd. and Ocean Ave.

Police said the driver of the car was Claude Edward Hunter, 62, of 21429 Marjorie Ave. The girl received treatment by her family doctor.

Protest Sewage

Protests against pools of stagnant water were raised in a petition signed by 47 Bluff St. residents.

The home owners claim that the water stands in the middle of the street and that they want a permanent solution.

LITTLE LEAGUE FIRE

A rubbish barrel fire ignited the grand stand at Dominguez Little League Field Thursday, but only minor damage was reported by firemen.



READY TO GO—Four of 20 Girl Scouts who left on a 28-day transcontinental bus trip, for which they had saved for three years, get ready to load their bags on the coach. They are (from left) Denise Hunter, 16, Dyann Davey, 17, Jackie Scherer, 18, and Janice Jackson, 16. —Press Photo

City Dads Look Gift Horse in Mouth, Shudder

Councilmen not only looked a gift horse in the mouth Tuesday night, but just about rejected it entirely.

An offer by the county to make its plans and specifications on completed capital improvements available to cities, received a cool reception.

"Every county plan for buildings I've ever seen was too expensive. They're building monuments to themselves," snorted Councilman Robert Jahn.

But other city fathers decided they might want to look at auditorium plans just to get an idea as to what they want to build here now that the old auditorium has been sold.

Policeman Hurt in Cycle Crash

William Bock, a California Highway Patrolman, suffered serious injuries when his motorcycle collided with an auto at Crenshaw Blvd. and 190th St. yesterday morning.

Torrance officers said that the motorcycle officer suffered a compound fracture of the left leg and bruises in the collision with the car.

Bock was taken to a Lynwood hospital. Name of the driver of the car was not immediately available.

Drivers Flee to PV Hills

One of two stolen cars used in a drag race through Hollywood Riviera early yesterday was completely demolished after it side-swiped four houses.

Both vehicles had been racing down Calle de Arboles, when they apparently lost control, and zoomed into the front yards of houses in the 800 block.

One car came to rest on the front lawn of Edward Ryan, 815 Calle de Arboles, while the other was abandoned in the middle of the intersection at Calle de Arboles and Via Colusa, police said.

The drivers and occupants of the cars dispersed on foot into the Palos Verdes hills before arrival of police.

The demolished car was stolen from Arthur Charles Hausen, 103 Via La Soledad, while the other was taken from Howard W. McAtteer, of 429 Via La Soledad, officers said.

Police said that two or three other cars were also stolen from the Riviera district during the night.

Narcotics Charges Net Trio

Two youth and their girl companion were arrested on suspicion of narcotics charges early yesterday.

Police Officers Charles Oates and Paul Singleton said they attempted to stop the suspects' car for nine blocks before they finally halted it at Prairie Ave., and 174th St.

Albert Tony Alameda, 20, of 1320 W. 168th St., was booked on suspicion of driving under the influence of narcotics, and his companions, Delmar Leslie French, 19, of 4535 Narrot St., and the 17-year-old juvenile girl were held on suspicion of narcotics possession.

The arresting officers said they observed the suspects' car narrowly miss two parked cars and veer over the center line on 174th St., and described the driving as "erratic."

When they stopped the vehicle, officers said they found pills in the car and in the possession of the suspects. The pills were sent to the sheriff's crime lab for analysis.

Alameda, who was driving the car, had no operator's license in his possession, officers said.



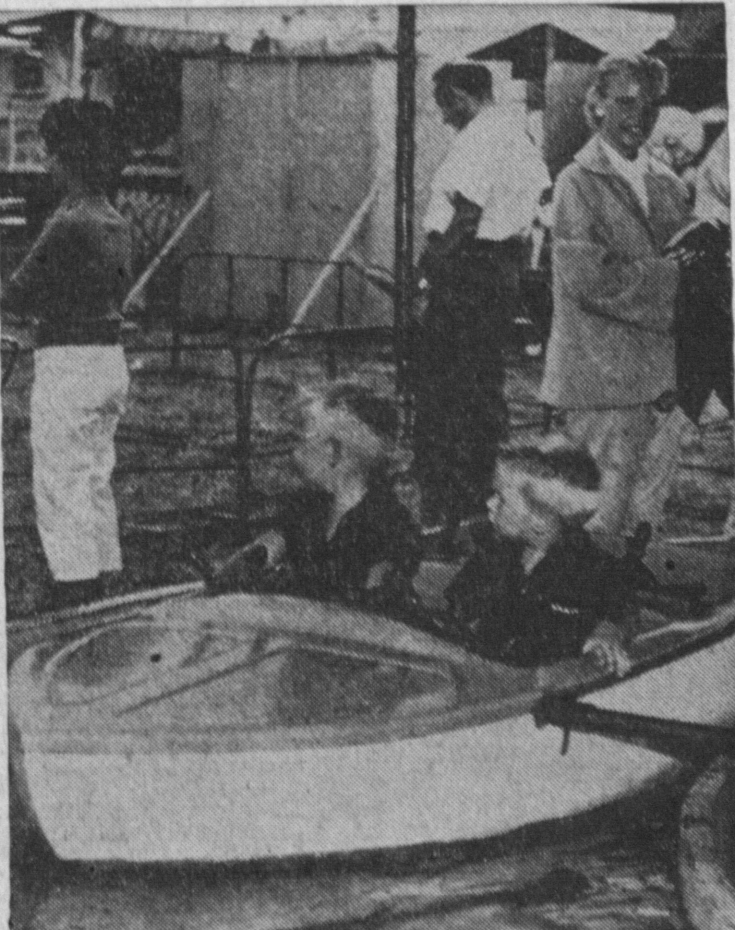
FUN TIME—Jerry Walter, left, and his brother, Jim, of 911 Cerise Ave., take the bumps in stride as they ride the Ranchero Days roller-coaster.



PITCH-OUT—Connie Sudmeier of 2708 Torrance Blvd. tries her skill to win a panda bear by tossing a coin on dishes placed on top of the stuffed animals.



ROUND AND ROUND go Steven Smith of 826 Maple Ave. and Trudy Lee Bullock of 3118 Antonio St. as they spin around merry-go-round at Ranchero Days midway.



OLD SALT—Donnie Powell, left, and brother Chuckie, both of 22420 Shadycroft Lane, took a last look at mom and dad as they prepare to navigate downstream.