

# Torrance Men Pick Virtues of Woman of the Year



The Largest Circulating Newspaper between Los Angeles and Long Beach

## TORRANCE PRESS

1406 CRAVENS AVE.—FA 8-2345

10c PER COPY

VOL. XI

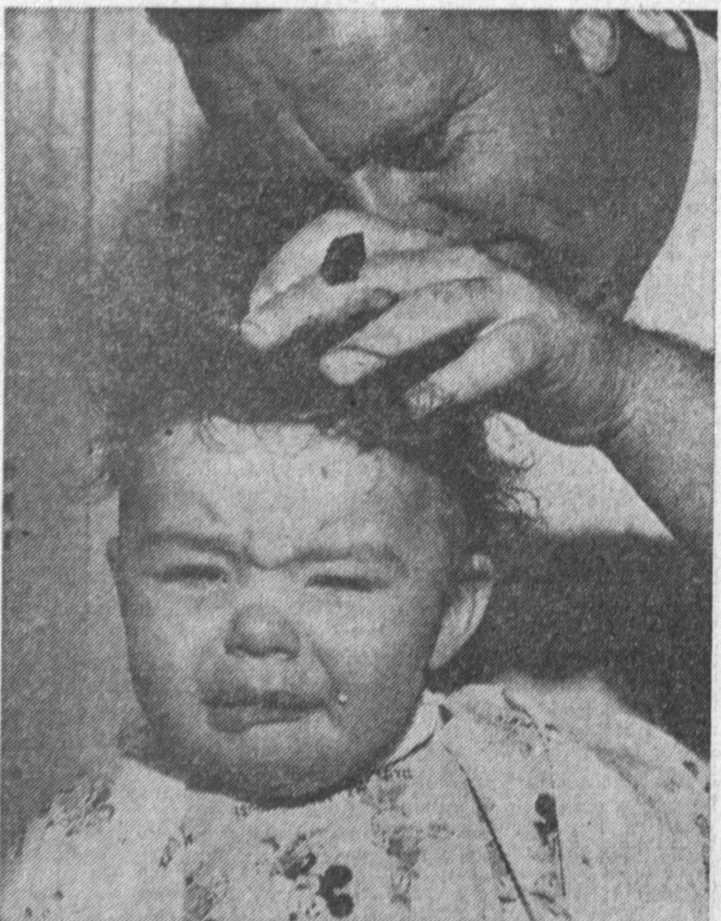
1 • 2 •

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1959

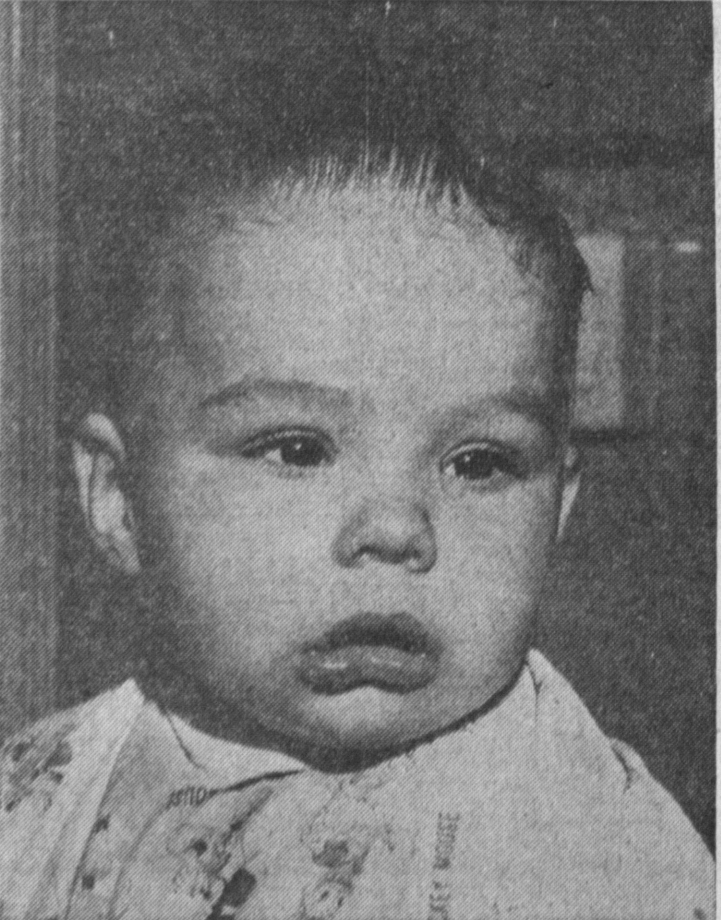
NUMBER 68



ABOUT TO GO—Little Jeff Clotworthy, who will be one year old Dec. 27, gets first haircut from Ken Cutbirth in WALTERIA.



GOING—And he's not happy. Why do little boys get curls and little girls need permanents? Jeff's all for keeping his.



GONE—Ready for Mommy, he's set to face a new life. Mrs. R. H. Clotworthy will reorient him at home, 2410 Ridgeland Rd. —Press Photos by Staff Photographer Art Willey

### DOWNTOWN STORES TO OPEN TODAY

Most major downtown Torrance stores are remaining open Sundays till Christmas to accommodate patrons unable to do their shopping through the week.

With enforcement of parking meters eased by order of the chief of police and opening of a free parking lot by the Security-First National Bank at Cravens and El Prado, the downtown merchants are offering shoppers more conveniences than ever.

Most stores are featuring pre-Christmas specials at reduced prices.

### MADNESS

#### Car Men Going Through with Midnight Sale

Torrance will be put on the map again throughout the Southland when three crazy car dealers buy out the whole Tom Dugan show on Channel 13 to tout their first "Mad Midnight" sale, which will see cars going for \$1.

The production, to go on next Saturday at midnight, will be the zaniest undertaking ever attempted here. Spectators will be served champagne, coffee, and doughnuts — in any order — while they watch the \$1 giveaways and take part in an auction that will see cars going at absurd prices.

The proprietors of the event — who plead guilty to being completely fledgling — are Vel's Ford, Paul's Chevrolet, and De-Von Plymouth, the madmen of Cabrillo Ave.

Buyers will be able to name their own terms. Other psycho cases who will be on hand are finance-company representatives ready to assist the buyer wishing to take advantage of the dealers' lunacy.

Thursday's edition of The Press will present further data on this insane sale, which will be presented live on TV after midnight and make automotive-distribution history.

The Press will, that is, if the proprietors are not all crated up in upholstered cells before the event takes place.

#### Anza Christmas Party Planned

Anza PTA will celebrate the holiday season Wednesday at a Christmas party in the school at 7 p.m.

Second and third grade mothers will be hostesses.

The student chorus and school band will present a program of yuletide music.



BRUSHING UP—Donna Grady helps prepare some of the tiny buildings which will go into the Sugar Plum Village being set up this week at Benstead Plunge by Recreation Dept. (STORY ON PAGE THREE)

### 'A Jinx to All,' Says Woman Who Mixed Cyanide Cocktail

A lonely, ailing Torrance woman, who said she had been a jinx to all who came into contact with her, wrote a valedictory note early Friday morning and mixed herself a cocktail of death.

Mary Louise Phillips, 35, was found dead in her apartment at 144 Palos Verdes Blvd. by a finance-company representative she had called to come get the car.

The visitor was accompanied by Mrs. Phillips' landlord, Warren Ford, whom she had told at 1 a.m. she intended to take her life. She died, an hour later.

Ford and his wife said the woman was intelligent, well read, and widely traveled. She had told them she was a biochemist who no longer could work in aerosols. Recently she had been selling books door-to-door. She had lived here about three months.

Desperately seeking a friend, a word, a ray of hope to penetrate the wall of loneliness and desperation she had constructed round herself, she sought solace in the church and in conversations with Ford and his wife. Apparently she had no close friends.

The Fords described her as warm and vibrant whenever the prison of personality was opened. She often told them of four husbands, sometimes three — all of whom met with violent death.

When the last of her three children was born, she said her husband was speeding home on emergency leave from the armed forces when a staff car crashed, killing all occupants. The child later was adopted.

Her present fiancé, referred to only as Bill, was blinded by an explosion and died on the operating table. She said he had been working in a laboratory.

She did not duck when the rent was due, but explained why she could not pay it. Under constant doctor's care, she said she was suffering from TB and cancer. She had been under treatment at the City of Hope.

"I had to come back from Cairo to get cancer in California," she told the Fords.

In her final letter, Mrs. Phillips said she knew she was going against the concepts of her church and letting her doctor down.

She knew the chemical symbols for the ingredients in her final drink.

Her last letter left her life and records to the landlord in lieu of rent. Then she compounded a potion of scotch, secional, and sodium cyanide and bade it all farewell.

### 2 Children Hit at School Bus

Two children were struck down Thursday afternoon as they crossed a street after leaving their school bus.

Catherine Mileham was reported in fair condition at Riviera Hospital. She suffered a broken shoulder. Bryan Rodman was treated for minor injuries.

They were crossing Halson Place at Ingram Way.

Catherine, 11 years old, lives at 20004 Ingram. Bryan's home is 20028 Ingram.

### DECORATION CONTEST ENTRIES IN

Entries are arriving at the Chamber of Commerce office, 1511 Cravens Ave., for the first Outdoor Christmas Display Contest, sponsored by the Junior Chamber.

All residents of Torrance may compete. Judging will be conducted between Dec. 20 and 23 by members of the Jaycee. The contest is divided into religious and novelty categories. Awards will be plaques.

### YMCA Teenagers to Make Mercy Trip to Navajo

About 20 teenagers will make a mercy trip to the Navajo Indian reservation in northern Arizona on Saturday, Dec. 26.

They will be bearing gifts of badly needed clothing, toys, food, candy, and medical supplies to the forgotten American on the most barren land available.

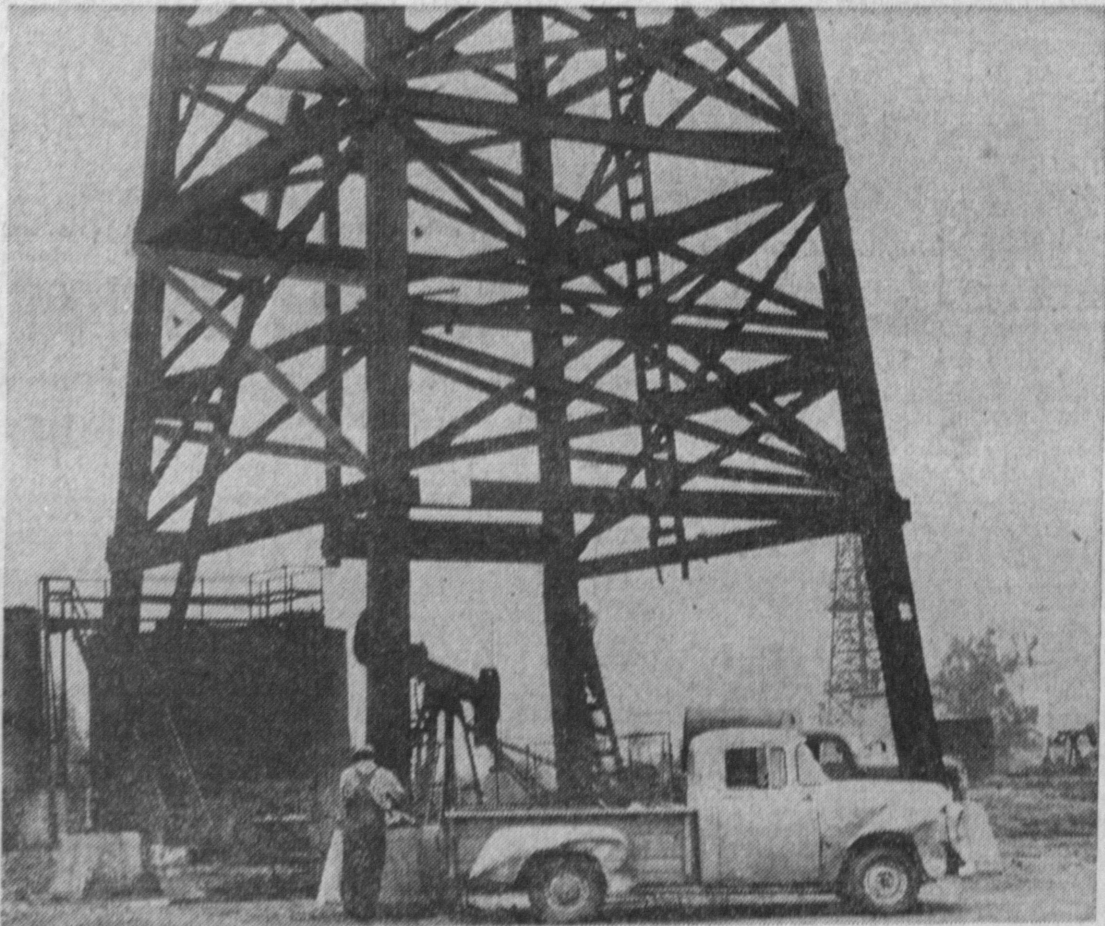
Each Christmastime, the Torrance YMCA undertakes this for Indians existing near Monument Valley.

Last year, nearly 100 Indians went away with nothing. Torrance residents have until next Saturday, and this year the Y sponsors are hoping there will not be a repetition of this heart-breaking experience.

The group will depart at 6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 26, in rented trucks. They will deliver the gifts to the Indians on the 28th. Those who make the trip will go sightseeing at the Grand Canyon en route and on return. They will start the trip home at dawn Dec. 30.



CHRISTMAS SINGERS—Carol Vorhis and Gloria Mathis, members of the Tartar Choir, will sing Tuesday night in concert at Torrance High. Program will start at 8 p.m. —Press Photo



ABOUT TO GO—Harold Killingsworth, oil-well operator, ordered this tower thrown in cooperation with the city's ruling to clean up oil fields. Fifty-nine remain in Torrance.



GOING—Tower on 236th St. east of Arlington topples. Planning Director George Powell all had highest praise for oilmen's cooperation. All fields must be cleaned up by 1961.



GONE—Only a few men still know how to throw a derrick. Powell appreciates demolition now, rather than at 1961 deadline. —Press Photo