

## Neighborhood 'Menace' at Oil Site

Determination of a Torrance housewife to clear up a dangerous and unsightly condition in her neighborhood, and a running battle with Authority over a five year period, may finally get results, it was learned this week.

Mrs. Thomas Meehan, 19916 Saltee Ave., appeared before the city council Tuesday evening and recounted some of the rebuffs she has received in her attempts to get some cleanup operations on a weed-cluttered and trash covered oil well site on her block.

Noting that the large area, which fronts on three streets, is an eyesore, she added that it is also a definite menace to health as a breeding ground for rats and gophers that infest the area.

With three large storage tanks, piles of old pipe and an uncapped and out-of-use well on the site, it is an irresistible "attractive nuisance" where neighborhood children are concerned.

### TELEPHONE SEIGE

Mrs. Meehan stated that

she has continuously called the fire department, police department, parks and recreation department, planning commission, county health department and the owner of the property for more than five years.

Each of the city and county offices, she said, were sympathetic, felt that "something should be done," but the site remained as it was.

Replacing his lawn three separate times after it was ruined by gophers, one homeowner in the neighborhood is finally coming

in his yard so his children will have someplace to play.

Petitions are currently being circulated in the neighborhood requesting the council to take some kind of action. Mrs. Meehan reported that some of the homeowners in the neighborhood were contacted and asked if they would be willing to purchase the property, so she knows that it is for sale.

One councilman who came out to see the site for himself, reported that the

city should take some kind of action, either to force the owner to clean up the property or to condemn it.

Volunteers from the local homeowners offered to clean up the property themselves and requested permission from the owner, but were refused. Following the offer to sell the property, homeowners felt that the site was being allowed to deteriorate to force them into buying.

One thing is certain... Mrs. Meehan has no intention of abandoning her crusade until the site is clean.



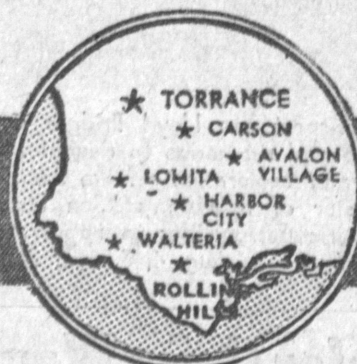
MENACE TO HEALTH?—Mrs. Thomas Meehan, 19916 Saltee, shows a portion of the cluttered oil well site, breeding ground for rats and gophers that romp in neighborhood yards, to a passerby. City and county departments agree that something should be

done to clean up the site and homeowners in the area are currently passing petitions asking the city for some concentrated action. Site is also considered to be a dangerous "attractive nuisance" for children in the area, who get through the fence easily.

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## TORRANCE PRESS

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# Book Torrance Man As Member Of Pay Telephone Burglary Ring

"BIGGER AND BETTER" . . .

## Urge Support for Annual Torrance Rodeo, Aug. 5, 6

Torrance area residents this week were urged to support the annual Torrance Ranchero Days R.C.A. Rodeo to be held on Saturday and Sunday, 2 p.m. August 5 and 6, at the Torrance Civic Center, 3200 Torrance Blvd.

Captain Les Schmock of the Torrance Mounted Police, and chairman of the event, said that this year's rodeo promises to be even "bigger and better" than the previous ones.

A large and colorful rodeo parade will begin at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, August 5, proceeding from downtown Torrance to the Civic Center.

### MAJOR EVENT

Bareback bronc riding will be a major event at the Torrance rodeo, according to the committee charged with plans for the event. Lt. D. C. Cook, rodeo co-ordinator, boasts some of the top bareback buckers in the business will be on hand.

The contest — one of six standard events in today's fast-paced rodeos — has grown in popularity through the years, and there's a reason for this. Cowboys coming out of a chute on treacherous broncs must burst into the arena spurring the horse high over the shoulders.

The eight-second bit of eternity aboard a pitching outlaw invites disaster, and while clinging on for dear life by a precarious hand hold, the cowboy must remember several things — to spur, to keep the other hand free, and to manage to hang on whether he is sideways, backwards, or upside down.

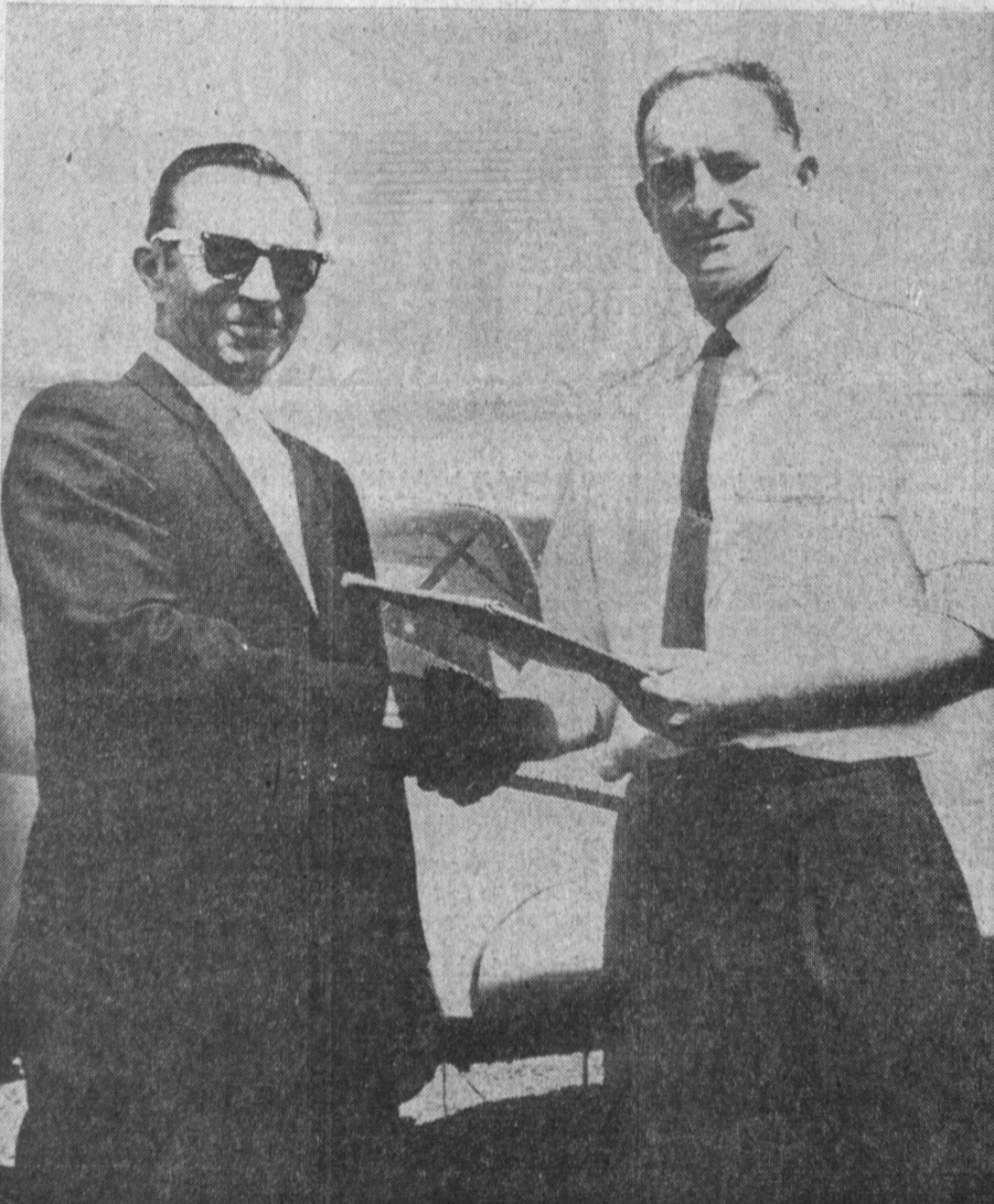
### Aquatic Star Dies

Buttons, one of four young whales at Marineland, died Friday of unknown causes. A post mortem examination will be conducted on the nine foot, 900 pound body of the whale.

She will be replaced by another whale which has been in captivity several months undergoing training for the shows.

### Inside the Press

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MEET THE BOSS—Joe M. Doss, long-time member of the city's Airport Commission, was named to head the group at Thursday night's meeting. Here Doss, who is in the educational promotion division at Mayfair Products, receives a congratulatory hand-

shake from Jack Egan, airport manager. A licensed pilot himself, Doss is familiar with the problems inherent in operation of a field. His election to the chairmanship of the commission will be recognized at Tuesday night's council meeting.

## Police Estimate Haul In Excess of \$10,000

Credited by police and telephone company authorities with hauls in excess of \$10,000 over a six month period, a Torrance man and two Palos Verdes friends were arrested late last week in the act of breaking open telephone coin boxes.

Los Angeles police, who made the arrest, indicated that they had solved more than 500 pay telephone thefts in virtually every part of the county with the arrest of the trio.

In custody were Floyd Hinkworth, 37, of 3217 Newton St., Torrance, H. B. Martin, 46, and Marjorie H. McMillan, 35, both of

2733 Via Anita, Palos Verdes Estates.

### CAUGHT IN ACT

Investigating officers said they arrested Hinkworth and Martin in Eagle Rock after they allegedly saw them break open locks on 25 pay telephones.

When arrested, the two had more than \$260 in coins in their possession, alleged to be the loot from their latest thefts.

Martin identified himself as the son of Mrs. Romaine Martin and has been living in her Palos Verdes home while she is vacationing in Europe.

Known as the "Mutt and

Jeff" team by police officers throughout the county the men, one tall and one short, had been described by witnesses who had seen them in the act of robbing the pay booths.

Arrest culminated several weeks of intensive investigation including a stakeout at the Palos Verdes home.

In the possession of the suspects at the time of arrest were specially built lockpicks, designed especially for the locking devices on pay phones.

Martin, when arrested, gave his occupation as a former dice manufacturer. Hinkworth is a musician.

### ROLLING HILLS PLAZA . . .

## Citizens National Bank Announces Plans For Torrance Branch at Hwy 101, Crenshaw

Citizens National Bank has completed lease arrangements for a branch office in the Rolling Hills Plaza Shopping Center at Pacific Coast Highway and Crenshaw Boulevard, Torrance.

Remodeling of the existing building will begin immediately, with opening of the Citizens office planned in September. The banking quarters will contain 2,555 square feet of space and will offer regular facilities and services.

Located at 2599 Pacific Coast Highway, the new Citizens office will be in the shopping center which includes a J. J. Newberry store, a Thrifty Drug Store, a Foods Co. Market and

many fine retail and service shops. Owners and developers of the Rolling Hills Plaza Shopping Center are Albert Levitt and James S. Bower.

At the same time, it was revealed that Citizens has

already made arrangements in the shopping center for a building site to construct a larger permanent office to replace the temporary quarters. Plans and specifications are now being prepared for a modern, spacious office, which will open in 1962.

Now in its 71st year, Citizens National Bank has 63 branch offices in the Southern California area with total resources of more than \$600 million.

### SERVE ENTIRE AREA . . .

## Social Security Office To Be Opened in Torrance

A new Social Security Administration district office will be opened in Torrance in the near future, William L. Mitchell, Commissioner of Social Security announced this week in Washington.

New office will serve residents of Gardena, Harbor City, Lomita, Palos Verdes Estates, Lawndale, Hermosa Beach and Manhattan Beach. This Redondo Beach - Torrance area previously was served by the district offices at Long Beach and Inglewood.

### BETTER SERVICES

Mitchell said that the Torrance office is designed to provide better service to persons covered by the old-age survivors and disability insurance program. Population growth and changes in its pattern were factors in deciding the location of this office. The decision to open a social security office in Torrance was based on a study of the population to be served, types of employment, numbers of

those now on the social security rolls, and related data.

At the beginning of 1961, more than 22,000 residents of the area to be served by the Torrance district office were receiving social security benefits at the rate of more than \$1,485,000 each month.

Mitchell said that the new office will be staffed to help claimants apply for benefits, obtain social security cards, as well as to answer inquiries about the old-age survivors and disability insurance provisions of the social security law.

### FRIDAY DEADLINE . . .

## Bids for East Torrance Storm Drains Now in; Work to Start in September

Bids for construction of the East Torrance bond issue storm drain, project 587, will be opened by County flood control engineers next Friday morning, according to County officials.

After the bid proposals have been clocked in, opened and read, they will be immediately checked for accuracy and analyzed. If the bids are determined to be satisfactory, recommendation will be made to the Board of Supervisors for award of contract to the low bidder within 30 days.

This will mean that preliminary construction will start by September, if no problems develop.

Allocated \$816,400 in the 1958 bond issue, the storm drain will be built in two lines. The project will be located partly in the second

supervisory district and partly in the fourth district. Line A begins at 188th street and Crenshaw boulevard and extends south on Crenshaw to 190th street, then east to Van Ness and south on Van Ness to Del Amo boulevard.

Line B will begin at an existing drain west of Western avenue and south of Torrance boulevard, then northwesterly across Torrance boulevard approximately 150 feet to an existing earth channel.

City and County officials pointed out that the project will eliminate the flooding of the intersection of Crenshaw and 190th street, which has posed a serious problem for many years, as well as provide increased flood control for a large portion of Torrance.

Plans for the project were

prepared under the direction of Torrance City Engineer W. M. Nollac.

Contract for the work will be awarded by the Board of Supervisors and the project will be supervised and inspected by engineers of the County Flood Control District.

Construction will require about 11 months after the contract has been awarded.



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"OUT OF THE CHUTE"—Scenes such as this will be repeated many times over during the annual Mounted Police Rodeo scheduled August 5 and 6, 2 p.m. at the Torrance Civic Center, Saturday's opening session of the

rodeo will be preceded by a huge parade starting at 10:30 a.m. In the above photo, cowboy contestant, with perfect timing, stays in control of his high-kicking mount in the rodeo's classic event, saddle bronc riding.