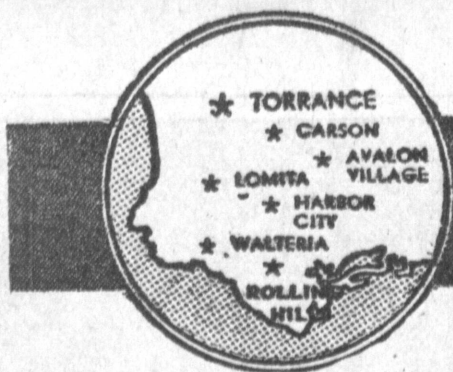


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STAKEOUT AT LAUNDROMAT SEIZES

ASSAULT SUSPECT

Torrance Man Charged with Rape Attempt

DOMINGUEZ CHANNEL . . .

County Pays City's Safety Fence Costs

The County of Los Angeles this week tacitly admitted responsibility of providing safety netting at flood control overpasses when they approved repayment to the city of Torrance the cost of installing them.

Supervisors reported this week that the Board of Supervisors has allocated \$4,000 to the city to be used in providing safety fencing on five bridges across Dominguez Channel, all located within the city.

County had earlier denied responsibility for providing the fences after a 4-year-old boy fell to his death from the Arlington St. bridge.

COUNTY BILLED

City councilmen, although they felt that the problem properly belonged to the county, authorized installation of the fences but insisted that the county be billed for repayment.

Supervisors said that the money was appropriated out of the aid to cities gas tax fund.

The allocation will be used to cover the bridge handrail balusters on the following bridges with chain link fencing:

South side of Redondo Beach Blvd.; Crenshaw Blvd. south of Redondo Beach Blvd.; Arlington Ave; Artesia Blvd.; west side of Western Ave.

Existing bridges at these locations are provided with handrails with balusters, or upright rails, located six inches apart and 40 inches in height.

Police Chief Warns Merchants of Rooftop Burglars in Torrance

Torrance Police Chief Percy Bennett this week issued a warning to all merchants of the Torrance area that there have been a series of burglaries in this community where the suspects entered the stores through the roofs and have lain in wait for the owners to arrive in the morning.

Suspects are armed, the chief said, and should be considered dangerous.

COOPERATION

Bennett asked all local merchants to cooperate and to remove any objects in the vicinity of the stores that would aid the suspects in climbing to the roof.

He also suggested that the first employee arriving in the morning should check the outside of the building and if he notes anything suspicious, to call police.

Noting that a well-lit store

Sales Tax Hiked

Coffers of the city of Torrance were fattened during the fourth quarter of 1961 by the addition of \$368,167 in sales and use taxes, it was reported this week by the State Board of Equalization.

Amount was 3.5 percent greater than the allocation of tax money received during the last quarter of 1960.

A 21-year-old Torrance man, sought by area police for more than two weeks, was arrested by Harbor Division detectives early this week.

Caught in a police stakeout at a laundromat where several of the offenses had occurred was Billy R. Smith, 21927 Harvard Ave., Torrance.

Booked on charges of assault to commit rape, the suspect readily admitted to arresting officers that he had forced two women from the laundromat, located at the corner of 228th St. and Western, at gunpoint.

"The gun wasn't even loaded," Smith is alleged to have told the arresting officers. "I didn't intend to hurt them."

Officers said that they found a .38-caliber revolver in the suspect's automobile.

Possibility that several suspects may be robbing and threatening women in a series of laundromat robberies assaults has not been ruled out by police. Descriptions of the suspect by victims has varied greatly.

In one mid-December holdup in the same laundromat where the suspect was captured, Mrs. Sharon L. Rajock, 23, of 22618 Denker St., was held by a young bandit whose description is similar to Smith's.

FORCED TO DISROBE

Bandit forced Mrs. Rajock to disrobe and shut her in a back room while he fled with the victim's clothes and a purse containing \$17. Victim later crept out into the laundromat, found a large towel to wrap around herself and, when two women friends arrived, searched for and found her clothes outside the back door.

Series of incidents in coin-

operated laundromats forced the police stakeout.

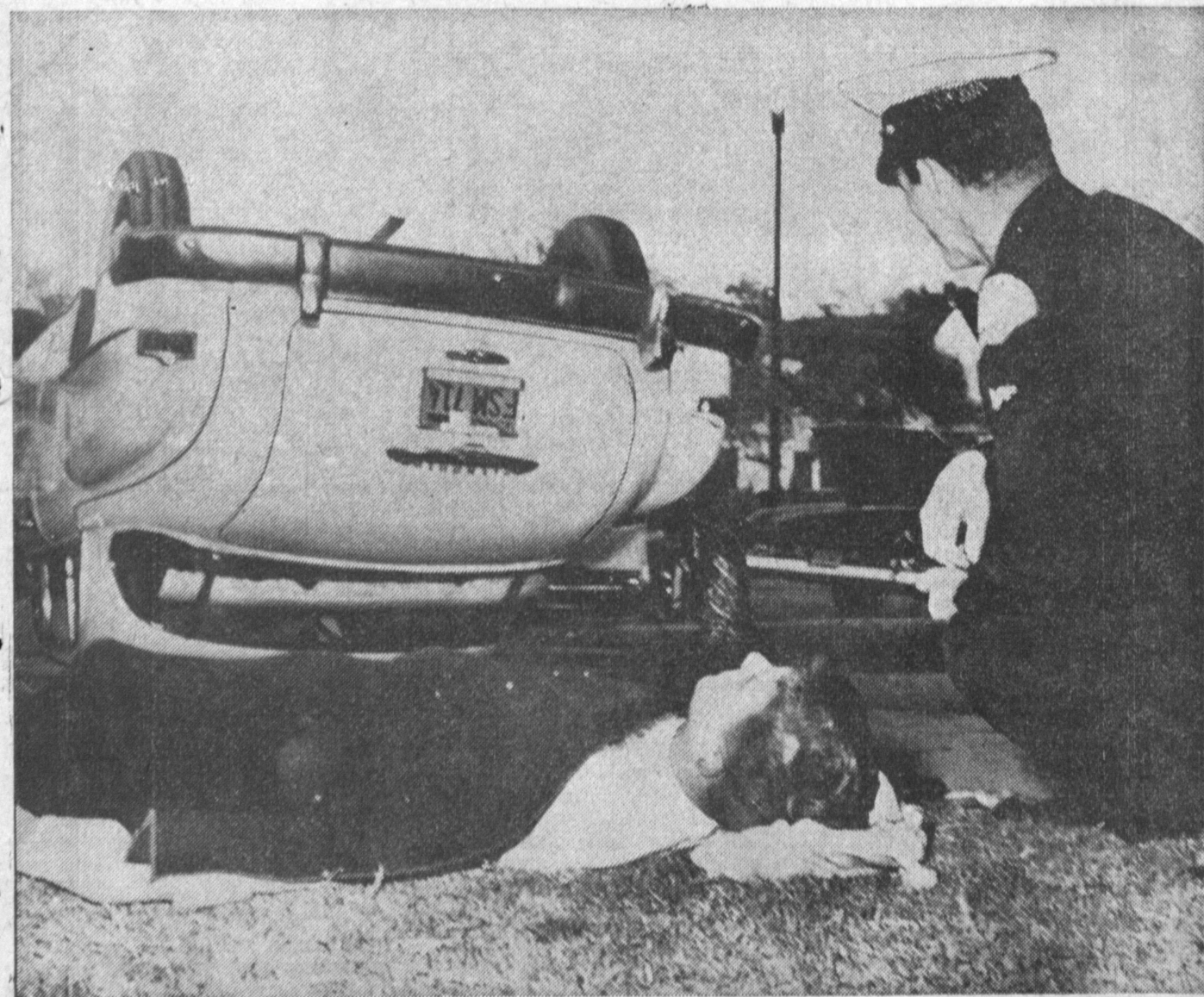
Officers advised women who use the self-service laundry facilities not to use them late at night unless accompanied by a friend and not to carry large sums of money while using these public facilities.

C of C Endorses Torrance Airport Expansion Plans

The board of directors of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce this week adopted as policy a resolution supporting the sale of revenue bonds to finance the necessary improvements and facilities of the Torrance Airport.

In a prepared statement chamber officers said, "It is the opinion of the board that the development of the airport will be of benefit not only to those industries and businesses that use the facilities, but also to the citizens of Torrance because of the job opportunities and payrolls that directly contribute to the local economies of our city and the South Bay area."

"It is further felt that through this improvement program, the Chamber of Commerce will be better equipped to deal effectively with expansion of industry."



COMFORT VICTIM—Gordon Tilley, 16, of 1017 Kornblum St., Torrance, was the sole victim of this accident last weekend when the car he was driving flipped over on the 1700 block of Watson St. Car apparently slid in sand on the street,

jumped a curb and overturned. Tilley was thrown clear. Here, Torrance police officer comforts the injured youth. Tilley was taken to Little Company of Mary Hospital for treatment of his injuries.

STUDY BUSINESS PROBLEMS . . .

City Councilmen Advocate Establishment Of Downtown Redevelopment Group

Torrance city councilmen, concerned with the falloff of business in the downtown area of the city, last night advocated the establishment of a redevelopment committee to study growth and business problems in the area.

Mayor Albert Isen suggested the appointment of William Tolson, Torrance realtor, to head the group with the able assistance of several other downtown businessmen.

Commenting upon the phenomenal growth of large shopping areas surrounding the center of the city, and noting that even if they had developed out-

side the city they still would have taken a large slice of business from commercial Torrance, councilmen indicated that they thought it was time to take a "new look" at problems confronting the area.

SENTIMENT

Most of the council reported that they felt a "sentimental attachment" to the older commercial center of the city and felt that they, more than any other single factor in the community, had been responsible for the booming growth of Torrance over the past decade.

A redevelopment com-

mittee, as suggested, could study planning and growth problems of the area and make practical suggestions as to ways the city could help and methods by which businessmen could help themselves.

Councilman J. A. Beasley said, "Downtown merchants, through sales taxes, have done their part to contribute to support city government over the years. They are still contributing some \$40,000 each year in sales taxes."

"I certainly feel that the city owes an obligation to these men to help in any way it can to alleviate their problem."

Dr. M. H. Boyce Will Campaign For Congress

A Torrance area physician yesterday threw his hat into the ring and announced his candidacy for the 17th District's Congressional seat.

Dr. Merle H. Boyce, who will run on the Republican ticket, will meet with area newsmen Friday noon at the Palms Restaurant, to briefly outline his qualifications for office and the platform upon which he will run.

Boyce maintains offices at 1615 Pacific Coast Hwy.

Hospital Fetes Second Birthday On January 31

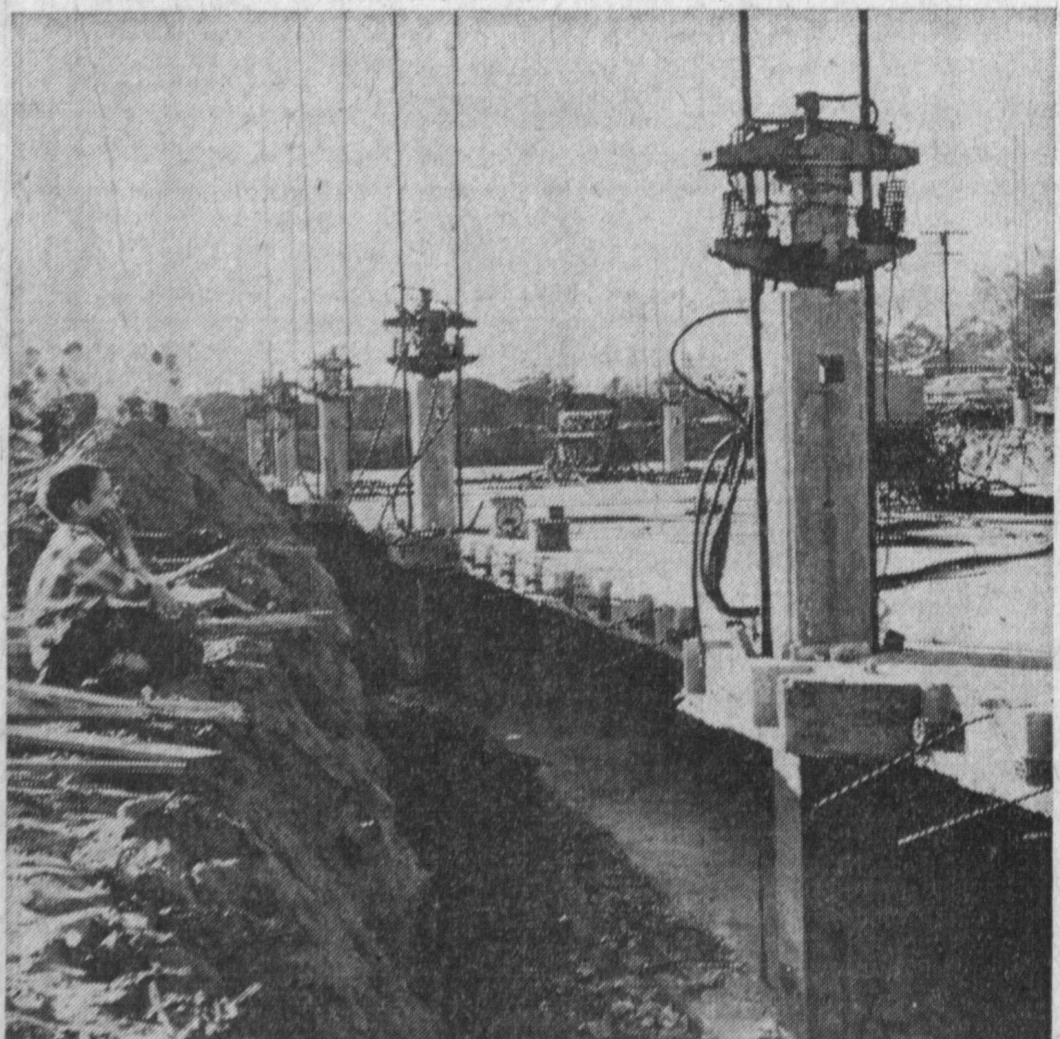
Second annual Founders' Day Banquet at Little Company of Mary Hospital will be held January 31, 7 p.m., at the Plush Horse Restaurant.

Hospital, which celebrated its second birthday last week, has grown phenomenally during its short tenure, reported George W. Schneider, newly elected president of the hospital's advisory board.

Tickets to the banquet may be obtained by contacting hospital personnel.

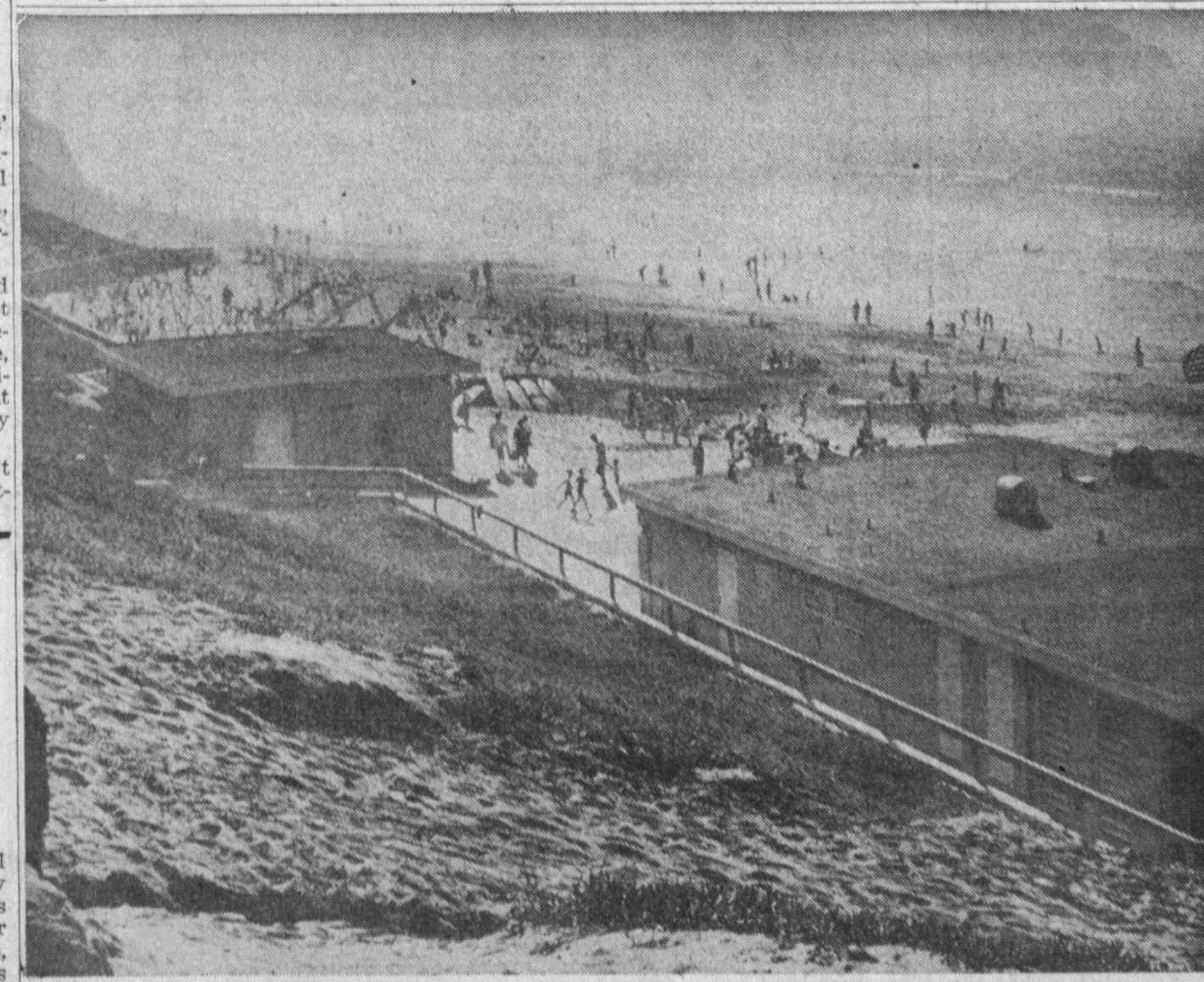


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GOING UP—Torrance Press photog Bill Schell caught this unusual shot Monday at the corner of Amie and Emerald Ave. in Torrance. Utilizing a new method of construction workmen first prefabricated this mas-

sive concrete slab and then hoisted it into place using several electric winches. Slab, which weighed several tons, will be a part of a multi-storied apartment building on the site.



SUMMER OR WINTER?—Unseasonable hot spell last weekend lured thousands of area residents to nearby beaches to surf, swim and loll in the sand. Most Southerners took snapshots of the scene to send to "back east" relatives, most of

whom are battling snowdrifts and blizzards. Weathermen predicted that the warm spell will continue for some time in open defiance of the rest of the nation's sub-zero temperatures.