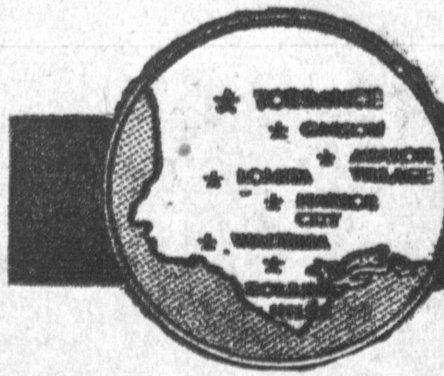


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# TORRANCE PRESS

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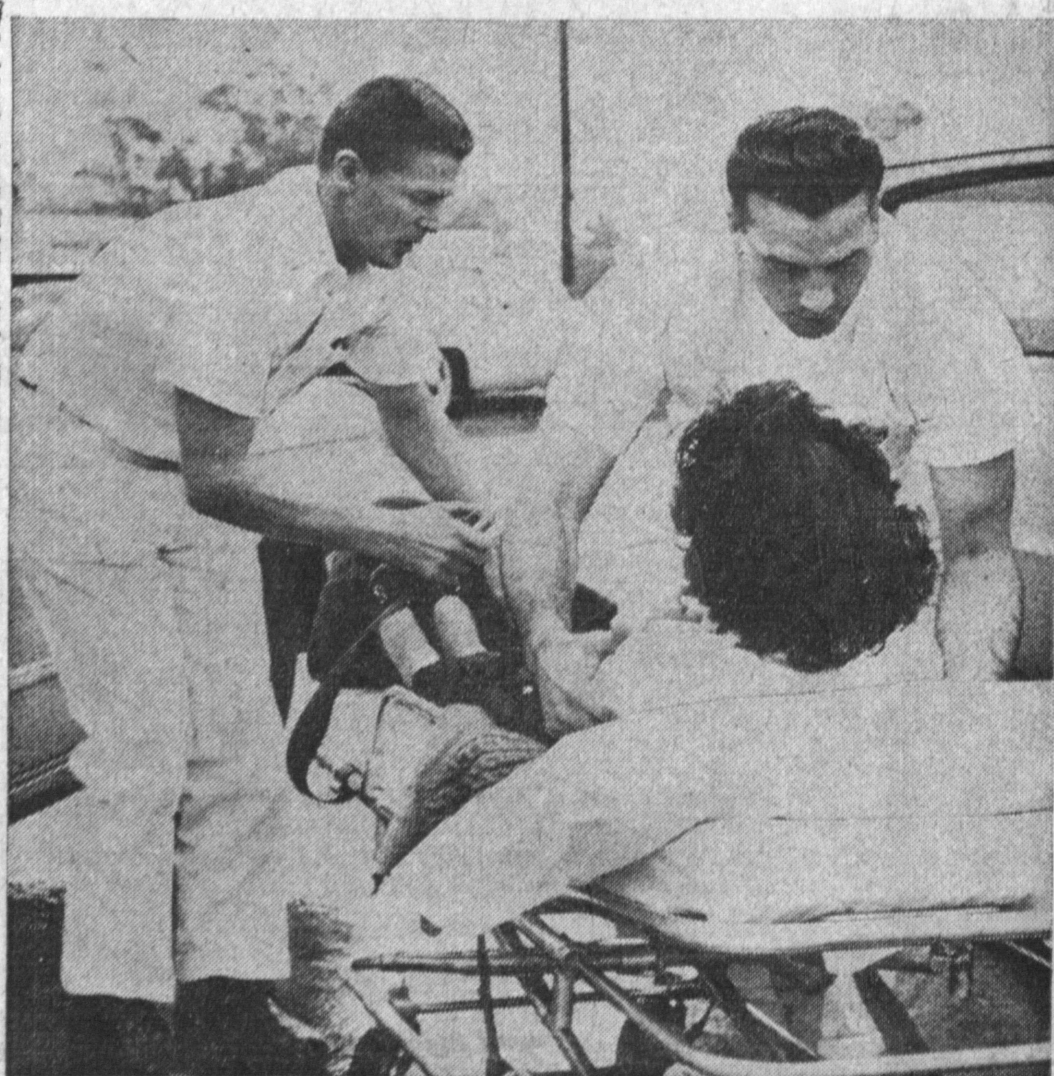
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SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1962

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# CITY WILL "BACK" TWO POLICEMEN CHARGED WITH ASSAULTING YOUTH



**MUDDY MISHAP**—First accident of the rain-spattered week took place at the corner of Western and 228th St. Injured Fayrene Parks, 36, 1539 W. 226th St., was taken to Harbor Gen-

eral treatment. Injured woman was a passenger in a small sports car. Driver of the second car, Jack E. Horner of Manhattan Beach, was not held.

## TAKE OUT PAPERS...

### Jean Clawson, Kurtz To File for Council

Two new candidates for city council positions took out nominating papers late last week as the Feb. 15 deadline for filing neared.

Mrs. Jean Clawson, president of Southwest Printing Company and the only woman serving on the Torrance YMCA board, and George Kurtz, Torrance attorney and civic leader, were the only two candidates to take out papers during the latter half of the week.

Mrs. Clawson, who makes her home at 2909 Eldorado St. with her husband, Russell, and two children, Reed, 14, and Martha, 4, has been active with the Los Angeles County Medical Association for the past three years. She is a member of the Torrance Woman's Club, the Torrance Business and Professional Woman's Club, the Torrance Chamber of Commerce and the Madrona Ave. PTA.

Kurtz, 37, who lives at 23004 Evalyn Ave. with his wife, Eileen, and sons Robert, 10, and twins Kenneth and Clifton, 8, is a member of Kiwanis, is chairman of the Torrance Library Commission, past chairman of the Torrance Traffic Safety



JEAN CLAWSON  
... Hat In Ring

Council, chairman of the Youth and Legislative Commissions of the YMCA, and is past director of the South Bay Bar Association.

## \$25,000 Damage Suit Filed in Name of 18-Year-Old Victim

Two beleaguered Torrance Police officers this week gained support when city officials indicated that they would be "backed to the limit" in pending court hearings.

An 18-year-old Torrance youth has filed a \$25,000 damage suit against the two officers, Melvin J. Bennett, son of police chief Percy Bennett, and Lee James Ashman, charging that he was beaten by them at a dance June 10.

Independent investigation of the incident, conducted by the City Manager's office, indicated that the officers were first attacked and had only defended themselves.

Bennett and Ashman were not on duty at the time of the incident but had been hired privately to police the dance by the management.

Suit was filed in the name of Gary Michael

D'Onofrio, of 741 Sartori Ave. and will be heard in Los Angeles Superior Court.

Witnesses to the scuffle said that one of the officers was knocked down and that their hats were knocked off before D'Onofrio was arrested.

City was not named in the suit because the officers were not on duty and were privately employed. D'Onofrio's attorneys stated.

## AN EDITORIAL...

### Planning Commission Works Shorthanded, Help Overdue

The most vital commission in the city of Torrance is doing a man-sized job... with an empty chair at every meeting!

The Torrance Planning Commission, whose duty it is to investigate and make recommendations to the council on every issue involving zoning and building, is now operating at only a percentage of capacity because qualified men have not been appointed to the vacated post.

Two positions, formerly held by Commission President Bert Lynn, now a member of the school board, and Thirvin D. Fleetwood, whose appointment expired on Jan. 11, are vital to the effective operation of the commission. Fleetwood will continue as an interim member until a successor is named.

Other five men now operating. Pres-

sident, Dave Halstead, Ken Miller, Kenny Uyeda, J. K. Eardley, Jr., and Roy Bayer, are doing a fine job but are handicapped by this delay.

Under city ordinance all nominations to the commission are made by the Mayor with the approval of the council. Formerly, appointments to the commission were made by individual councilmen... each councilman appointing one member.

The Torrance Press would advocate a return to this policy of individual appointments in the hope that these vacancies would soon be filled from the ranks of highly qualified men who are available in our city.

Holding these posts open until after the election may be politically expedient but it also is a holdback on the progress of the community.

## Worst Storm in Years Ravages County; Torrance Stays Dry But Area Is Hard Hit

Man once again pitted himself against the elements this week as the worst rainstorm in five years ravaged the southland.

The rains, which began Wednesday afternoon, measured 3.77 in Torrance as of Friday night. Arterial areas were blocked by police as streets and residential sections near the city went partially or totally underwater.

Sections of the Artesia freeway were closed to traffic, as was Avalon Blvd. and Vermont. Residents in nearby Re-

dondo and Carson found themselves being evacuated from their homes by local police. Many of those too stubborn to leave tried protecting homes and furniture by blocking doorways and windows with sandbags.

It was a field day for newspaper photographers and reporters as they covered the effects of a downpour which has gained national publicity.

Damage to streets, homes, and automobiles and mud slides in construction areas is estimated in the millions.

## 'Transient' Little League May Be Forced To Find Another Home

Torrance's most transient Little League may soon be forced to find another home, it was reported Friday.

Southwood Little League, which is currently home-based at Victor Park, won a reprieve at last Tuesday's city council meet when councilmen okayed their continuance at the park until the close of the season on July 31.

Homeowners in the area have protested the action,

claiming that allowing the youngsters to stay at the park will delay building programs there, programs that have been held in abeyance for the past two seasons.

League has been turned away from two previous locations.

Deputation of local residents, led by Mrs. Donald W. Walker, 5208 Asteria St., will protest the July 31 deadline at next Tuesday night's council session, it was reported Friday.



**THE RAINS CAME**—Flooded intersection of Vermont and Artesia looked more like a lake than one of the main arterials into Torrance as rainwater in some areas rose to a depth of nine feet during the weekend storm.

Only the tops of flooded cars showed over the floodwaters at this intersection. Some of the cars could not be pulled out until Friday afternoon.



**BELEAGUERED HOUSEWIFE**—Mrs. Jacob Lerman, of 1010 W. 223rd St. ruefully surveys the soggy ruins of her new wall-to-wall carpeting as unchecked water flowed into her living room. Firemen evacuated fami-

lies in the Vermont-223rd St. area and helped lift furniture out of the reach of rising water. Water was 12 inches deep in the Lerman living room.