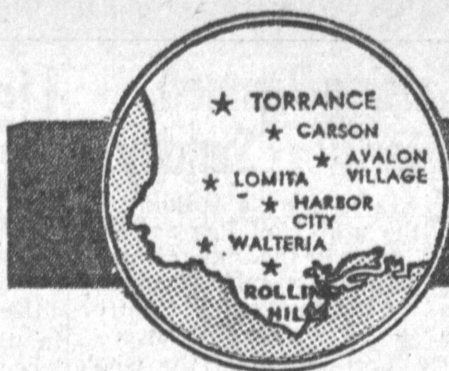


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# TORRANCE PRESS

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7, 1962

3238 SEPULVEDA BLVD., TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA

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# COUPLE ORDERED RELEASED AFTER 71 DAYS IN JAIL ON COURT MISTAKE

## Damaged Main Threatens Homes With Flooding

A broken water main at the corner of Carson and Madrid last night brought out city repairmen, routed local homeowners and cut off water supplies in a large area of Torrance for more than two hours. Break occurred at 11:30 p.m.

Water flooded intersection so that repairmen were forced to wade, waist-deep, in order to find the break.

One homeowner on Amala sent an emergency call to the fire department asking for sandbags as water threatened to flood into his front room.

## Youth Placed in Court Custody on Kidnap Charge

Dale J. Luxton, 18, 17040 Atkinson Ave., was placed under the jurisdiction of Los Angeles Juvenile Court Friday in connection with an assault on a 47-year-old Torrance housewife.

The Torrance youth is charged with suspicion of rape, robbery, and kidnapping.

According to investigators, the victim said she was forced off the road by another car, Feb. 20, in the vicinity of Del Amo Blvd. and Carmel Ave., Torrance.

She was then dragged from her car by the other driver, who threatened to kill her. He took her purse containing \$120 and drove her to Del Amo Blvd. and Victor St., where she was criminally assaulted.

Her attacker ordered her to run away from the vehicle and across the field, she related to Torrance police officers.

Luxton was booked after Sheriff's deputies found Luxton's auto to fit the description given them by the victim.

## Two Gunmen Loot Liquor Store in Lomita Holdup

Two bandits, working swiftly and efficiently, held up a Lomita liquor store Monday night, tore out the telephone, and made their escape with approximately \$100, it was reported yesterday.

Clerk Robert H. Burnham, 22, said the two entered the store, located at 26125 Western Ave. drew pistols and removed the money from the register. After taking his wallet they ordered him into a back room and fled.

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**UNDER FIRE**—City officials realistically tried to reassure residents of a North Torrance area Monday night that they would do everything within their power to end dangerous situation in their neighborhood. Open pit where 6-year-old boy drowned last week is adjacent to area. Unruly audience shouted and booed speakers.

Nearly 40 of the persons in the audience, disgusted with the antics of others, walked out of the meeting. Another meeting, to be attended by city officials and representative of the group, will convene next Tuesday evening before the council session.

## NEATLY FOLDED FLAG . . .

## 'Patriotic' Vandals Inflict Hundreds of Dollars Damage to Flavian School Room

"We Hate Teachers" was printed in orderly fashion on the blackboard; but that was the only order to meet the eyes of Flavian Principal Robert Dexter as he opened the door of Room 10 last Monday morning.

Vandals had done a thorough job of strewing books, papers, supplies, potted plants, dirt, and chalk through the entire room. The classroom had been effectively massaged with ink, paste, glue, chalk, and dirt; and considerable damage was done to the record player, globe, first aid kit, and other equipment.

In the middle of a table that had been thoroughly cleaned of dust the vandals had almost reverently placed the room's flag that had been stripped from its standard, yet meticulously and patriotically folded.

School officials say it was two or more school children, probably boys. Every effort is being made by the school officials and the local police department to locate the culprits who managed to inflict several hundred dollars worth of damage to the room. Fortunately for the solution of this, several sets of finger prints were conveniently left, which the police have on record. However, both the school and the police officials would appreciate hearing from anyone who may have any further information.



**FIRST MEETING**—Civil Defense workshop started last night in the basement of city hall. Classes will be held each Tuesday evening on survival methods in case of nuclear attack.

Above, Orin Johnson, senior administrative assistant, Councilman Willys Blount and Mrs. Gertrude Tooker, instructor, look over CD map showing danger areas in case of attack.

## Couple Are Victims Of 'Error' Reports Appellate Court

A Torrance couple, held in jail for the past 71 days on charges of willful child neglect, were ordered released on their own recognizance yesterday by the District Court of Appeals.

The appellate court agreed with contentions of defense attorneys that the pair were victims of a court error and had been denied their right to a speedy trial on the charges.

Claude Bishop, 40, and his wife, Marjorie, 39, had been held in county jail since their four year old son, Michael, was found dead Christmas Day.

Boy, who weighed only 16 pounds at the time of his

death, was found dead in his crib by his parents. Hospitalized once before for malnutrition, it was charged that the boy died of starvation.

### LATER REPORT

A later coroner's report showed that the boy died of hydro-encephalitis and murder charges were dropped and child neglect charges substituted.

Defense attorney Arthur Zamloch brought the case before the appellate court contending that the couple were the victims of an error by Municipal Judge Donald Armstrong. Preliminary

hearings on the case were held in Judge Armstrong's

courtroom. Zamloch, who had been appointed by the court to defend the couple, said that they had been denied their right to a trial within 30 days of arrest.

Judge Armstrong, who was defended at the hearing by deputy district attorney Harry Sondheim, contended that he had "zealously" tried to protect the legal rights of the couple, that the defense counsel had been appointed on Jan. 22 and that it would have been an abuse of "due process" clauses of the constitution to hold the trial by the Jan. 24 deadline.

Appellate court will take under advisement a request for a writ of habeas corpus.

## DISORDERLY SESSION...

## Unruly Crowd Attempts Intimidation Of City Officials At Mon. Hazard Hearing

Demands that a large, dangerous, open pit in a North Torrance neighborhood be fenced, filled and converted into a park were repeated at last night's council meeting, following an unruly session Monday night in which city officials were hissed and booed.

Jerome S. Satuloff, a sales engineer, 2007 W. 179th St., spokesman for the more than 300 residents of the neighborhood, demanded that the city fill the hole at its own expense, condemn the land and turn it into "anything but a trailer park" immediately.

Pointed comments that the owner of the property

might have some rights in the matter elicited no replies.

Last night's session followed a stormy meeting Monday evening at Arlington and 178th St., when an unruly crowd of homeowners shouted and booed down suggestions by councilmen and sincere offers of help in relieving the dangerous hazard.

Pit was the scene of the tragic drowning of a 6-year old boy last week.

### KATHY FISCHUS LAWS

Councilmen have agreed to enforce "Kathy Fischus" laws which make it illegal to leave attractive and hazardous nuisances unfenced or unattended. City will fence off part of the

area and will demand that the balance be fenced by the owners of the property.

One portion of the land is held as a lease by Henry Guinzer to be used as a dump. When the area is filled and the lease expires, Guinzer has promised the land to the city as a park site.

Balance of the land is owned by builder R. A. Watt, who holds a variance that permits him to fill the pit and then use the land as a site for a trailer park.

Another discussion session between city officials and representatives of the homeowners has been called for next Tuesday night.

## Irate Property Owner Threatens Suit Against City

Ted Koletos, Torrance developer, last night told officials that he would bring suit against the city if he was not granted a building permit on Hawthorne Blvd. property immediately.

Disputed property, located south of the Old Lomita Blvd., on the east side of the street, is subject to inundation, city officials aver.

Koletos contends that there are already buildings on the land and that the site where he intends to build has never flooded. He told councilmen that he was promised the building permits seven months ago but that they have not been granted.

## City Named in Suit Over Plane Fire Last Month

Claims totaling \$16,660.50 were filed against the City of Torrance Friday as the result of an airplane fire Jan. 14 at the Torrance Airport.

John S. Trier, 841-11th St., Manhattan Beach, and Robert Fitzsimmons, Redondo Beach, are being represented by attorney Donald Hitchcock. Fitzsimmons was a passenger in the plane.

Trier, owner of the burned plane, appeared before city councilmen after the fire to complain that the field's firefighting arrangements were inadequate, but councilmen voted not to let him be heard.

Damages being asked for are: Personal injury, \$2,500; damage to plane, \$8,510.50; loss of income due to damage to plane, \$2,450; and medical expenses not to exceed \$500.



**EARLY ENTRIES**—Welcoming early signers in the annual "Miss Torrance" competition, which opened this week, Al Schmidt, representing the sponsoring Chamber of Commerce, says

"hello" to Nancy Franco, Carolyn Keller, Carol Loupas and Dorrine Zach. Winner of the competition will compete in "Miss Dodgers" and "Miss Angels" competitions next month.