

Demand New Trial for Convicted Man



SEEKS NEW TRIAL — Sharon Smith, 18, wife of convicted kidnapper Billy Romain Smith, 21, told Torrance Press reporters that they will seek a new trial for her husband on April 16. She stated that neighbors and friends had offered their help and assistance when they witnessed "doubtful" procedure leading to last week's sentencing to life imprisonment. Mrs. Smith is shown here with the couple's 4-month-old son, Billy Jr. (Press Photo)

The doughty, 18-year old wife of convicted kidnapper Billy Roman Smith, 21, yesterday pledged a continuing fight to prove that her husband was innocent of the charges.

Sharon Smith, 21927 Harvard St., scored the decision of the court and said that she had instructed her husband's attorney, Robert E. Krause of Long Beach, to seek a new trial on April 16.

In an exclusive interview Thursday with Torrance Press reporters, she took exception to the conduct of

the trial, pointing out that each time one of the alleged offenses was committed her husband had been in the presence of qualified witnesses who had testified at the trial.

When one of the court officials had chosen to call them "alibi witnesses" the jury had apparently ignored their testimony.

WITNESSES

On one of the occasions, at the exact minute the crime was committed, she said, the defendant had been with a crowd of 13 people celebrating the wedding an-

niversary of her parents. Each of the persons had testified to this effect at the court hearing.

Referring to the trial as "frontier justice" and "let's give him a quick trial and THEN hang him" procedure, Mrs. Smith said that, at one time during the trial, one of the prosecuting officers joked with the jury and "had them doubled up with laughter."

"Throwing away the future, and possibly the life, of an innocent man is certainly, nothing to laugh about," she said.

Smith was sentenced to life imprisonment last week. Attorney Krause affirmed that fact that he will appear in court on April 16 to seek a new trial.

NO CONCERN

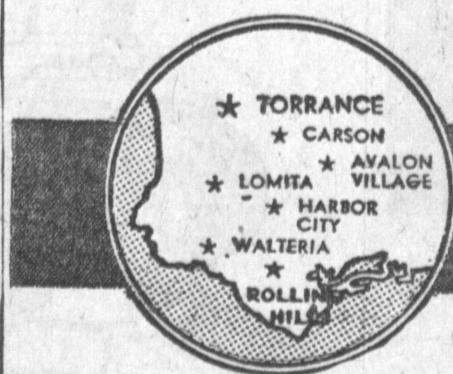
Refusing to comment on the conduct of the trial, Krause stated,

"That man is certainly innocent of the charges. Original complaints filed by the victims all said that the suspect was 5'10" tall, weighed about 185 pounds, had dark eyes and long, bushy, black hair. Smith is about 5'5", weighs about 130 pounds has blue eyes, and

has worn a crew cut for years.

"Description concerning the gun used in the crimes and the clothing worn by the suspect didn't jibe, either," he said.

Smith, a cook, was arrested by a police stakeout in January. At that time police agencies in the county and city strip were under pressure because of a series of laundromat holdups, kidnappings and assaults. Attorneys for the defense did not discount the possibility that officers might have been "over anxious" to bring in a suspect.



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Inside the Press

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EXPLOSIVE FIND — Britt McMichael, 12, and Kit Cassart, 11, show Torrance Police Officer Lee Graber sticks of dynamite they found in a piece of pipe on Torrance Beach. The five-foot section of pipe contained approximately six pieces of the explosive. Apparently attempts had been made to set off the dynamite but had failed because there were no caps. The only way to set it off would be to strike it with a hard object, officers stated. —Press Photo

WOMAN THROWN OVER P.V. CLIFF AS CAR FLIPS

Driver Booked On Stolen Car, Theft Charges

Two persons were hospitalized Friday night when their car flipped over at the top of a Palos Verdes cliff. Upside down, the car teetered at the top, a door opened, and a woman passenger was thrown over the 200-foot cliff.

Palos Verdes firemen were called to the scene of the crash, 1200 block of Palos Verdes Drive West, and descended the cliff to rescue the victim. She was identified as Lorraine Garcia of Pico Rivera.

Taken to Little Company of Mary Hospital, her condition is listed as serious. Police and firemen searched the area for 30 minutes before locating the driver of the car. He was finally found, wandering in a dazed condition, over a mile from the scene.

Refusing to give his name, he was taken to Harbor General Hospital for treatment and was finally booked on suspicion of grand theft auto. Car in which the pair had been riding had been reported stolen.

Tax Accountant Arrested on False Advertising Count

A local income tax accountant, under investigation by the California State Board of Accountancy, was arrested Thursday evening by Torrance police officers Thomas Pattishall and James Bell.

Mac Frankel, 51, of Lakewood, was served with warrants, issued at the request of the state board, in his Bellflower office. He also maintains Torrance offices at 17225 Crenshaw Blvd.

Released on \$262.50 bail, Frankel faces arraignment April 5, 9:30 a.m. at South Bay Municipal Court.



RESCUERS AT WORK — Palos Verdes firemen Friday night descended a 200-foot P.V. cliff to rescue a woman thrown over the edge as the result of a car accident. The woman, Lorraine Garcia, was found in brush and rocks

at the bottom of the canyon. Driver of the car, who refused to give his name, was found wandering in a dazed condition a mile away. Injured woman was taken to Little Company of Mary Hospital. —Press Photo

ASSUMES VACANT POST ...

El Cajon Planner Selected as Torrance Planning Director; Will Start May 1

City Manager Wade Peebles Friday announced appointment of Charles Melvin Shartle as the new planning director for the City of Torrance.

Shartle is presently the planning director of the city of El Cajon, where he has been employed for eight and one-half years. Shartle and his staff at El Cajon have been responsible for the develop-

ment of various components and a master plan.

In addition, Shartle has made worthwhile contributions to the methods and procedures which are currently being utilized by the planning department of that city.

Prior to employment with the city of El Cajon, Shartle worked for 3½ years for the city of Anaheim as a planning techni-

cian.

He holds a B.A. degree in municipal planning from UCLA.

One of the first high priority projects to which he will devote his attention will be the matter of restudying the zoning problems in the Victor precinct area. It is anticipated that Shartle will present recommendations at an early date.



CHECK PRESENTATION — Harold G. Frenz, general campaign chairman for the Torrance YMCA fund raising drive, here accepts a check for \$500 from Fred Rathert, assistant operations manager of Ryan Aeronautical

Co. Frenz stated that this gift brought the "Y" drive to a total of \$33,747 toward the needed \$40,000 for the year. Money is used exclusively for YMCA activities. —Press Photo

EDITORIAL ...

A Question of Blame For Youths' Actions

A word of commendation and another of condemnation is certainly in order, following last week's spectacular fire at the Carl Steele School and the swift apprehension of the suspects alleged to have started it.

A hatful of kudos should go to Torrance police officers who worked ceaselessly until the suspects were in custody. A special commendation should go to Lt. Gus Rethswich of the juvenile bureau, who put in 36 exhausting hours on the case and didn't quit until the youngsters responsible were known and were in custody.

The condemnation is another matter.

RESPONSIBILITY

Someone must accept responsibility for the actions of the youngsters, especially when these youngsters have admitted destroying nearly \$100,000 worth of property belonging to the taxpayers of this city.

Someone must accept the responsibility for these two 15-year-olds being out, and unsupervised, in the pre-dawn hours when the fires were set.

Someone must accept the responsibility for the liquor which the youngsters admitted drinking before they broke into the school. Someone, whether a liquor store employee who wasn't too careful about checking ages, or someone in the immediate family who wasn't too careful about keeping the stuff locked up, must accept this responsibility.

Whoever is responsible we must remember that it is always the taxpayer who picks up the final bill.

Pioneer Chamber of Commerce President, Torrance Resident, Dies Suddenly Sat.

A pioneer Torrance resident died suddenly at his home, 10 a.m. at Stone and Myer

chapel. Funeral services for Rufus

Page, 78, of 1723 Arlington

presidents died early yesterday. Ave., will be held Tuesday,

chapel. Reverend Robert Dehn, of the First Baptist Church will officiate, and interment will follow at Roosevelt Memorial Park.

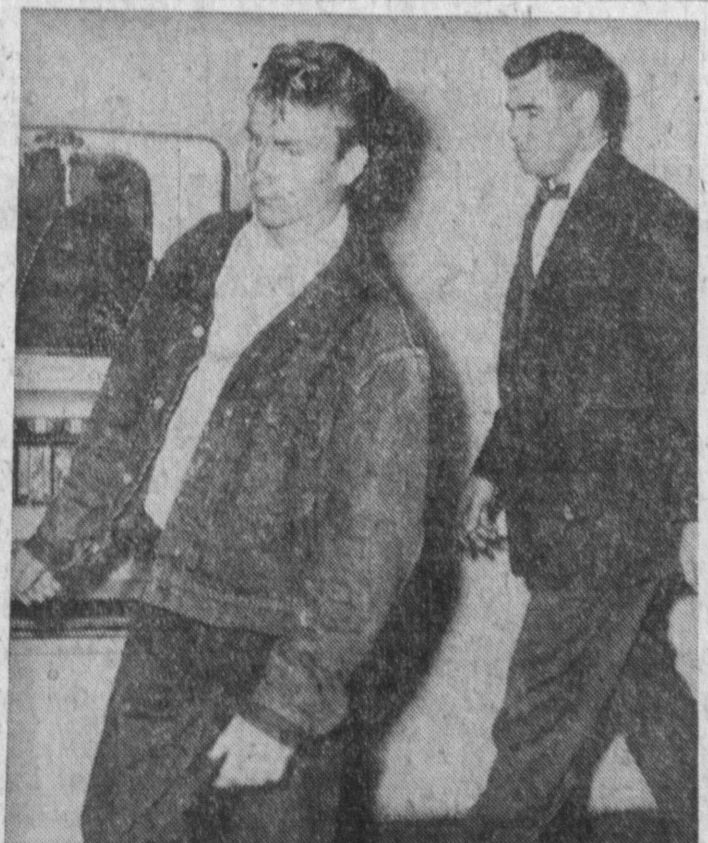
Page, a former real estate broker in Torrance, was a resident of the city for 38 years. President of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce in 1935, he was a member of the Masonic Lodge, Shrine, a past president of the Harbor District Chamber of Commerce, a member of Industrial Committee of the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce and was an active Rotarian who helped start new clubs in this area.

He is survived by his wife, Della B. sons Wilson R. and W. Eddie Page, and a daughter, Mrs. Marjorie Gordner of Yakima, Wash.

Saves Tot's Life

A Torrance police officer Friday was credited by physicians with saving the life of a year-old infant who had suffered convulsions and had stopped breathing.

Officer Charles Oates responded to a call from the home of Mr. and Mrs. Masami Adachi, 3605 W. 230th St., and found that the youngster, David, had stopped breathing. Oates removed obstructions from the infant's throat and kept him alive until physicians could take over.



RESPONSIBILITY — Jimmy Dale Beitton, 15, 20022 Ingram Way, one of the two youths who have admitted setting \$100,000 Carl Steele School fire last week, reported that a "drunk bought us some booze" prior to the fire. Shown here with Torrance detective Wally Nitz, the youth and his companion, Gregg F. Amick, Inglewood, will face arson and burglary hearings.