

City Council to Face Controversy Over Two Theaters

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Classified _____ B2-B6
Women _____ A6-B1
Sports _____ A3
TV Log _____ A3

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WELL-KNOWN MAN SHOOTS WIFE, BOOKED ON SUSPICION OF MURDER

Husband Reportedly Pumps Six Shots Into Body of the Victim

Emil J. Zirbes, 53, 5518 Calle de Ricardo, who allegedly shot and killed his wife, Margaret, 48, is resting "satisfactorily" in the Los Angeles County Jail ward, according to county sheriff's deputies.

Torrance police arrested Zirbes at his home at 2:50 a.m. Friday after he reportedly riddled the body of his wife with six bullets at close range.

Police booked the well-known Torrance businessman on the charge, "suspicion of murder."

ACCUSED MAN

While his wife was pronounced "dead on arrival" at Little Company of Mary Hospital, police were unable to question Zirbes. The accused man was brought to the police station in a stupor. Repeated attempts to awaken him proved impossible, according to Capt. John Maestri.

At about noon Friday an ambulance was called to deliver Zirbes to the county hospital jail ward. County authorities reported that they will return the alleged murderer to Torrance as soon as he recovers.

HOSPITALIZATION

"At first we thought he might be drunk," Maestri said, "but after several hours we decided he might need hospitalization. That is why we called an ambulance."

Police reports on the death of Mrs. Zirbes show they answered the call of Joseph Zirbes, 19, a son. Joseph Zirbes called police after his father summoned him and reportedly said, "Call the police. I just shot your mother."

Torrance police found Mrs. Zirbes on a bedroom floor, a gun on the floor near her. The gun, a .32 caliber automatic pistol, holds eight cartridges, officers said. Six shots were fired. One was in the gun's chamber and another in the clip.

The son said he was awakened by noises. He said he heard his father breathing heavily.

The couple's two daughters, Judy, 16, and Bonnie, 12, were asleep in their bedroom when the shooting occurred.

According to the police report, Joseph Zirbes stated that his mother had been going to a girl friend's house in the Waveria area.

ANOTHER MAN

However, he said his father believed the victim was seeing another man. Emil Zirbes told his son that he had seen Mrs. Zirbes kiss another man, the police report continued.

The son came home at 11 p.m. and arrived at the same time as his parents. Joseph Zirbes allegedly asked his mother where she had been, and she reportedly answered, "Just to see my boy-friend."

Then Mr. and Mrs. Zirbes sat down to watch television, the son said. Joseph Zirbes claimed there was no argument between his parents when he retired for the evening at about midnight.

The son told officers the pistol which his father used was kept in the (son's) room locked in a safe. The son said that only his father had a key.

GOP Re-elects Soderstrom Treas.

Charles Soderstrom, has been elected to his second two-year term as treasurer of the County Republican Central Committee, a group which includes the city of Torrance within its scope.

Soderstrom has been active in the Republican Party for more than ten years as a precinct worker, Central Committee member, 17th Congressional District Chairman, United Republican Finance Chairman of Los Angeles County, Finance Committee member and treasurer of the County Central Committee.

Soderstrom was also elected chairman of the 17th Congressional District of the Republican party at the July 10, 1962, meeting.

Police Will Be Honored With Pedestrian Award

A special award for cities of more than 100,000 people will be presented to the Torrance Police Department in recognition of its pedestrian safety record, according to Police Officer Don Hartel.

Hartel said the Torrance Police were informed the citation would be made at 10:30 a.m. tomorrow at the Police Station. Hartel reported the recognition would be given by the American Automobile Association. Representing the group will be a consultant of the Auto Club of Southern California.

In selecting winners, the AAA considered each city's traffic education and traffic engineering programs as well as its safety record, Hartel said.

FELONY . . .

'Hit and Run' Charges Face Linda Joyce Woods

"Hit and run" felony charges will be faced by Linda Joyce Woods, 19, of Wilmington in an auto accident which took the life of three-year old Amy Swartz of Torrance last Wednesday.

Miss Woods, who reportedly fled from the scene of the tragedy in front of the youngster's home, 18832 Haas Ave., returned to let authorities know that she had been responsible, according to Deputy District Atty. Tom McNary.

At first Torrance Police had proposed manslaughter as well as "hit and run" charges.

"I couldn't see it that way," McNary said. "Here is an immature girl who panicked."

Upon McNary's suggestion the charges were trimmed to "hit and run" only.

Miss Woods will appear for her preliminary hearing in South Bay Municipal Court Aug. 3. The matter

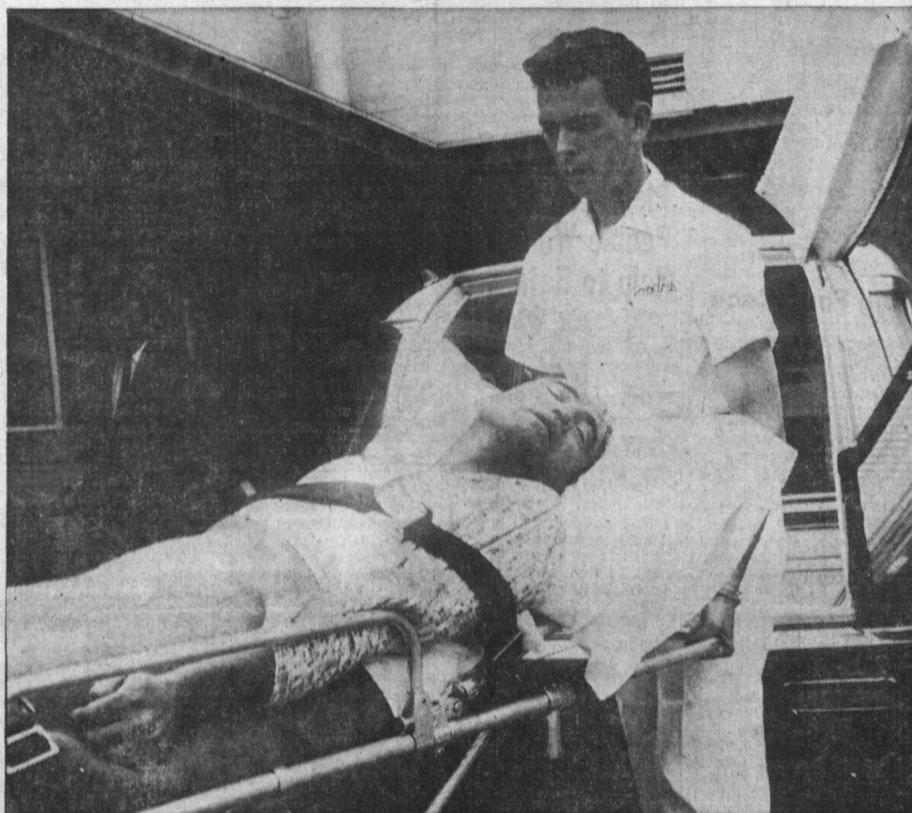
has been set before Judge Otto B. Willett in Division 2.

If the charges are affirmed, there are two possibilities. Miss Woods could be turned over to the Juvenile Court, or she could face a preliminary hearing in Superior Court, McNary pointed out.

Meanwhile the victim, who was struck as she reportedly jaywalked in front of her home, was interred in Inglewood Cemetery following private ceremonies, Friday.

Miss Woods has no auto license, according to McNary. She told authorities she left the accident scene because she was confused. After returning home, she voluntarily came back and informed Torrance Police that she was responsible, McNary said.

"If Miss Woods had not returned to the scene of the accident, Police still might not know who hit the three-year-old girl," McNary said.



WHEELED OUT—Torrance police order Emil Zirbes sent to Los Angeles County Jail ward by ambulance when he fails to awaken from stupor. The 53-year-old man allegedly shot and killed his 48-year-old wife, Margaret, at his home, 5518 Calle de Ricardo. Zirbes, a well-known local businessman, is the owner of a

children's amusement park at Pacific Coast Hwy. and Ocean Ave., Waveria. His son reported the alleged murder to police. He said his parents were watching television at the time he went to bed and that there appeared to be no quarreling.

—Photo by Alan Titelman

Officials Plan 2-Day Airport Celebration From September 29-30

A two-day "Airport Day" celebration will take place Sept. 29-30 at the airport, according to General Chairman Glenn H. Child.

The two-day affair will feature an open house of airport facilities on Saturday, and a full program of events on Sunday. The exhibits and events committee, headed by E. G. "Slim" Kidwell, is now engaged in selecting displays and activities which will be of interest to the general public.

Child said that recent airport appointments to the public affairs committee include Mrs. Jean Clawson, Southwest Printing Co., who will head publications activity; Jack A. Meyer, Transland Aircraft, who will

be in charge of trophy awards; and Jack Cheak, United California Bank, who will assist W. B. (Ham) Hamilton, public affairs chairman.

Working with Jack R. Egan, airport manager and chairman of the facilities committee, will be Homer Morgan of Two Macks Electric and an airport commissioner, who will be in charge of sound systems.

Assisting Kidwell in the exhibits area will be Jack C. Brown, Waveria Paint Store, who will be in charge of obtaining a large relief display of the airport. The relief will show the present air facility and improvements planned for the future.

Torrance Beach Rescues From Ripptide Total 10

Dangerous ripptides Thursday threatened 67 swimmers at Torrance and surrounding beaches, according to County Lifeguard Headquarters.

Torrance Beach became the third largest danger point with 10 rescues. The largest number were in jeopardy at Redondo Beach, where the guards pulled 35 from the Pacific Ocean.

Weed Abatement Contract Test To Go to Court

City Atty. Stanley Remelmeyer will order a suit be taken into court to test the validity of a \$62,010 weed abatement contract between the city of Torrance and P. I. Haddan. Remelmeyer will be on military leave so another attorney will handle the case.

Remelmeyer said the legal action could be completed within two weeks, and then there would be less chance of litigation against the city in the future.

To initiate the action, Remelmeyer has instructed City Clerk Vernon Coil not to sign the contract with Haddan, which the City Council approved last Tuesday. The city attorney is making this request because of the "confused procedure when the bids were received."

Remelmeyer said he will then institute a suit in behalf of the city to force Coil to sign so the court's ruling in the suit will establish the contract's validity.

The legal maneuver is being made to avoid a property owner's possible refusal to pay his weed abatement bill on grounds Haddan did not receive the contract through free, competitive bidding.

The bidding procedure is questionable, Remelmeyer said because Haddan was allowed to take his bid back from the city clerk's office after it was submitted and return it before the bids were opened.

Debate Over Theaters Faces Council Tuesday

A controversy over a 1000-seat walk-in theater will be compounded Tuesday when the City Council meets at 5:30 p.m.

In addition to the Rolling Hill Plaza developers, there will be a second request for

a theater, both on airport property owned by the city.

The second request for a theater will be made by Airport Plaza, Inc., developers of the Airport Center, located on the northwest corner of Pacific Coast Highway and Crenshaw Blvd., according to City Atty. Stanley Remelmeyer.

Remelmeyer pointed out that both the Rolling Hills and Airport Plaza developments have similar restrictions which forbid the placing of a theater on either location. The only way the ban could be lifted would be if the city amends the airport leases.

In a release of Airport Plaza, Inc., the developers point out that a 25-year lease with a prominent national theater chain has just been consummated (believed to be United Artists).

The Airport Plaza publicity release states construction will begin immediately following the completion of plans which are being finalized tomorrow (July 16) with the New York architectural firm representing the theater chain.

However, Remelmeyer said no one can make any plans for a theater on the airport leases unless the council amends the present agreements.

Remelmeyer said her foresees a very controversial council session Tuesday, but he would make no predictions as to the outcome.

Senior Citizens May Be Given Free Building

A tentative offer to build a \$50,000 senior citizens building within the city limits has been made by the Joslyn Foundation of Santa Monica.

City Manager Wade Peebles said the only consideration which the foundation asks is that the group be permitted to approve the site of the structure.

"We would like to place the building at the Torrance Civic Center site, and we are meeting with representatives from Joslyn to work out this proposal," Peebles said.

Peebles reported that this would be the second adult center within the city. The first one was built in downtown Torrance. The initial project included donated materials and some free labor.

This is the first time we have been approached by the Joslyn Foundation," Peebles said. "I guess the foundation's founder would like to see as many of these centers built as possible while he is still alive."



RECOGNITION—The whole month of July is being tabbed "Recreation Month" by the county. One of the focal points for the occasion was the arrival in Torrance during the past week of Karen Ann Kyson, who holds the title of "Miss

Recreation." Miss Kyson, a junior at UCLA, is employed as a recreation leader in Culver City. Also shown in the picture is Lifeguard Richard A. Nolan.

—Photo by Carolyn Perko