



GETTING PINNED is Edward Gregory, Torrance's Commerce and Industry Unit Chairman by Harry Greer, the commerce and industry division chairman, as Torrance kickoff the United Way, Inc. commerce and industry program. United Way, Inc., formerly the Community Chest, will soon begin its first annual appeal throughout Los Angeles County.

LETTERS TO EDITOR

Dear Sir:

In regards to an article on Page 1 by the mayor of Torrance expressing his concern and great disturbance of the fact that an assistant district attorney had not taken the Torrance city officials in their confidence when they raided places under suspicion of bookmaking and other law violations, I would like to relate a story that took place in the 1920's.

The city had about 6,000 population and less than what is now considered the Old Torrance business district with about a dozen substantial retailers and professionals.

A few of them engaged daily in a poker game for money in a basement beneath an establishment called: "United Cigar Store," located at the corner of Cabrillo and Gramercy. Two or three patrolmen on foot had charge of law enforcement, which was not much of a job those days.

On several occasions county officers would show up, unexpectedly, as the saying went, but believe it or not, no violaters of the law were ever apprehended.

Nevertheless, the evidence was plainly visible, so tables were broken up, cards torn up, and poker chips scattered all over the floor, plus whiskey bottles and glasses.

As I was hired as janitor to clean up the mess, I was convinced that illegal goings on had taken place. However, the general public was uninformed and were not even aware of the existence of a basement. The businessmen involved laughed up their sleeves and a few weeks later go back to their old illegal pastimes until the next raid. Most of the culprits have gone to the great beyond, perhaps continuing their friendly car game with fireproof cards and chips. Also the police force of those days have answered Gabriel's horn.

Nearly 40 years later much progress has been made in law evading and circumvention.

In view of the fact that in many cities there has been found members of the police force that were not trustworthy, would anyone be so naive as to notify a city police department or other city officials of the time and the places going to be raided where after investigations they were pretty certain law violations were going on?

After the elaborate ghost written stories frob both sides, the whole thing seems to boil down to these facts: There were law violations going on in the places raided, as the arrests prove.

Was the Torrance Police Department aware of it being closer to the scene than the county law enforcement agency?

Did the Torrance Police department or city officials do anything about it and so informed the other agencies or asked their cooperation?

What difference did it make, if there are any ulterior motives as long as the laws are enforced?

Or are we to believe that it is more honorable in these modern days to make friend

or be induced to vote for officials who are lax in law enforcement, because he is such a good Joe?

In regards to slandering and smearing the good name of Torrance, recent events have already contributed to its bad reputation.

To name a few:

The inability of police to control the hecklers at a peaceful meeting of citizens to discuss civil rights. At one time city hall officials had the mistaken idea they could tell the people what is good or bad literature to read and it took a judge to educate them to the rights of citizens under the U.S. constitution.

Some proposed city ordinances were the laughing stock of the nation. Finally, years ago a duly elected city councilman came away with a bloody nose from a council meeting after a difference of opinion with his honorable colleagues that should have been settled with civilized debate, or so the rumors had it; and where there is smoke there is bound to be a fire, as the old saying goes.

In conclusion, I'd like to state that it is a far cry from the time that the City of Torrance was known as "The City of Homes."

Three EC Students To Display Photos

Award-winning pictures of three El Camino College students will be exhibited at the Los Angeles County Fair through Sept. 29.

John Roberts, 15951 Atkinson, Gardena, is the winner of a bronze medal for his baseball picture, "Home the Hard Way." Jesse Amado, who resides at 2744 W. Artesia, Torrance, has two pictures on exhibition; "Y're Out!!," a baseball shot, and "Flag Pole Painter," a candid illustration. Frank Sweeney's photo is an architectural view of the Seattle World Fair's Space Needle. Sweeney resides at 22512 Landeene Ave., Torrance.

Competition came from 30 junior colleges in Southern California. Photos were judged on Technical quality, composition and story telling. Pictures on exhibit gained a minimum of 27 points or better.

"L.A. Trade Tech. took the college plaque, as usual," Donald Brown, El Camino photography instructor said.

Six El Camino students entered a total of 20 prints in the contest. In comparison, almost all photography students at Los Angeles Trade and Technical College entered the maximum number of six photos per entrant.

Roberts' bronze medal winner earned 33 points. Roberts was a photography editor for the Warrior, El Camino's year book.

Amado was awarded 29 points for "Y're Out!!," a picture which appeared in El Camino's bi-annual magazine, Warrior Life! Amado is a staff photographer for Warrior Life and the Warwhoop. His shot of a "Flag Pole Painter" gained 28 points in competition.

Sweeney's "Seattle Space Needle" captured 29 points.



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