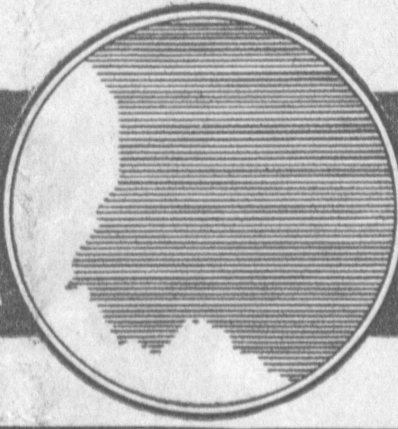


SS AVALON SINKS OFF TORRANCE BEACH

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PRESS

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HOMECOMING QUEEN Sandy McElhose (center) smiles happily after learning she was selected to reign over this week's homecoming festivities at Torrance High School. The pretty Miss McElhose is flanked by

her princesses, from left, Beverly Alert, Claudia Barto, Gail East and Sandy Coffee. The Tartars will play Aviation High School Saturday evening with kickoff set for 8 o'clock. —PRESS photo

Chief Hospitalized, Is Unable to Testify

Bennett Ill from Strain

Torrance Police Chief Percy Bennett failed to appear this morning in answer to a subpoena at a hearing conducted by the State Attorney General's office into alleged irregularities in the police department.

Officials at Torrance Memorial Hospital, told THE PRESS that Chief Bennett was admitted there Thursday evening in what was described as "a severe weak condition." Attending physician was listed as Dr. Woodrow Weiss of Torrance.

A spokesman from Attorney General Stanley Mosk's office said that the chief was served again this morning in his hospital room with a new subpoena after City Manager Wade Peebles notified the state that Bennett would not be able to appear at the hearing. The new order directs the chief to be present Wednesday, officials said.

The Attorney General's probe was asked by the Torrance City Council, after Assistant District Attorney Manley Bowler began an investigation of the department.

City officials accused Bowler of launching the investigation for political reasons. Bennett was served the original subpoena last week by Deputy Attorney General Jack Goertzen.

Residents Query City Council

A meeting to "Boost Torrance," held Monday by the Riviera Homeowner's Association took on the appearance of an old-fashioned "town hall" gathering.

Ken Miller, councilman, spoke on the jet problem at Torrance Airport.

(Continued on Page B3)

Sandy McElhose Picked to Reign at Homecoming

Homecoming activities at Torrance High School rolled into high gear this week with the selection of the top fifteen senior girls named by members of the senior class as nominees for the Homecoming Queen and her Princesses.

Selection of the Homecoming Queen and four Princesses was determined by a vote of the entire student body. The five girls to represent Torrance in the homecoming activities are Sandra McElhose, queen; and Gail East, Sandra Coffee, Claudia Barto, and Beverly Albert, princesses.

POLICE DEPARTMENT HONORED

The Torrance Police Department was honored this week in having one of their police officers elected president of the Los Angeles Chapter of Police Officers Research Association of California.

Charles B. Oates, a member of the police department for eight years, will succeed Capt. John McDonald of the Ventura Sheriff's station.

The Los Angeles Chapter of PORAC covers four counties, Los Angeles County, Ventura, Orange, and Kern County. It represents 39 communities and 10,000 law enforcement officers.

PORAC is a statewide organization composed of individual police organizations that have banded together for a common goal — the professionalization of the police officer.

The head administrators of the Torrance Police Department pledge their utmost cooperation in assisting Officer Oates in his year of office and congratulate him on receiving this high post in one of the largest police officers' associations in California.

STUDENTS TAKE OVER TORRANCE CITY HALL

The mayor of Torrance and his officials will step down Tuesday, Nov. 26, when junior and senior students from the five Torrance high schools take over city hall.

The students will be selected to act as counterparts to city officials during the seventh annual Junior Citizens Day. The program will start Monday, Nov. 25, when students meet in the council chambers for lunch and a briefing session concerning proposed agenda for the council meeting the following evening.

On Tuesday, student representatives will attend another short briefing and then go with counterparts to work in the various offices assigned.

Later the students will

tour city facilities and attend a banquet and reception at West High School.

Speaker at the banquet will be Arthur Sellan, Mayor of Fresno and president of Mayor's conference.

After the banquet the council meeting will start, students participating.

Optimists Will Serve Pancakes

All the pancakes, sausage, orange juice, milk or coffee you can eat or drink for only 50c—Sound like a good deal?

Well, the North Torrance Optimist Club is sponsoring such an affair, a pancake breakfast at McMasters Park Sunday, Nov. 10, from 6 a.m. 'til 12 noon.

McMasters Park is located at 174th and Yukon St.

On hand to serve the public will be the girls volleyball CYO division champions from St. Catherine School.

The breakfast is the North Torrance Optimist's first attempt to raise money for the benefit of the youth of Torrance.

WEATHER SUNNY, CLEAR

High today predicted to reach 74; low tonight, 47. Water temperature at Torrance Beach, 64.

EFFORTS TO CHANGE POLICE CHIEF EXAMINATIONS FAIL TO PASS COUNCIL

A renewed effort by Torrance Councilman Ross A. Sciarrotta to modernize the city's system of selecting a police chief failed to make any headway at this week's city council meeting.

The councilman proposed, in a motion, that:

1. Competition be opened to all police officers having the rank of sergeant and above in the Torrance Police Dept.

2. Open the examination to police officers outside the city with the rank of lieu-

tenant and higher in cities that have a population of more than 80,000.

3. Give 1% point for each five years of service to Torrance applicants, not to exceed three points.

4. That any Torrance applicant who scores 87% or more be given serious consideration by the city manager.

Sciarrotta's motion died for lack of a second. Proposed changes in the ordinance governing examinations for police and fire

chiefs have failed twice despite a majority vote in favor of it.

In other action, Fire Chief J. J. Benner agreed to a request by Councilmen Nicholas Dralle, J. A. Beasley and Sciarrotta to remain on the job for an "indefinite time," even though he is scheduled to retire Jan. 1, 1964.

The extended period will allow the council to settle a successor controversy which exists among the councilmen.

Under present laws, only the assistant fire chief is eligible for Benner's position. Council members Dralle, Beasley and Sciarrotta are endeavoring to open the exam to the battalion chiefs and captains — a total of 11 men.

Sciarrotta, who has served on the civil service commission for seven years, two of them as chairman, has told The Press of his opposition to the efforts of some councilmen to open the examinations to personnel outside the local fire dept.

"Not one city with a population of more than 100,000 in California," Sciarrotta said, "opens the fire chief job to outsiders."

BOARD TO MEET
Board members of Little Company of Mary Hospital Women's Auxiliary will meet in the hospital library conference room at 2 Sunday.

On Tuesday at 8 p.m. members of the auxiliary will hold their regular meeting in the hospital cafeteria. Mrs. Clarence Van Lingen, president of the auxiliary will preside.

Judge Sentences Birch Officers

Three John Birch Society leaders who broke up a public forum in Torrance were sentenced yesterday for their behavior branded as "adult delinquency."

The trio, Jacob M. Sacks, 26524 Basswood Ave., Palms Verdes Estates, Robert Cadle, 21605 Ocean Ave., Torrance, and James Rea, 4120 Silverleaf Drive, Rolling Hills Estates, all had entered guilty pleas to charges of disturbing the peace.

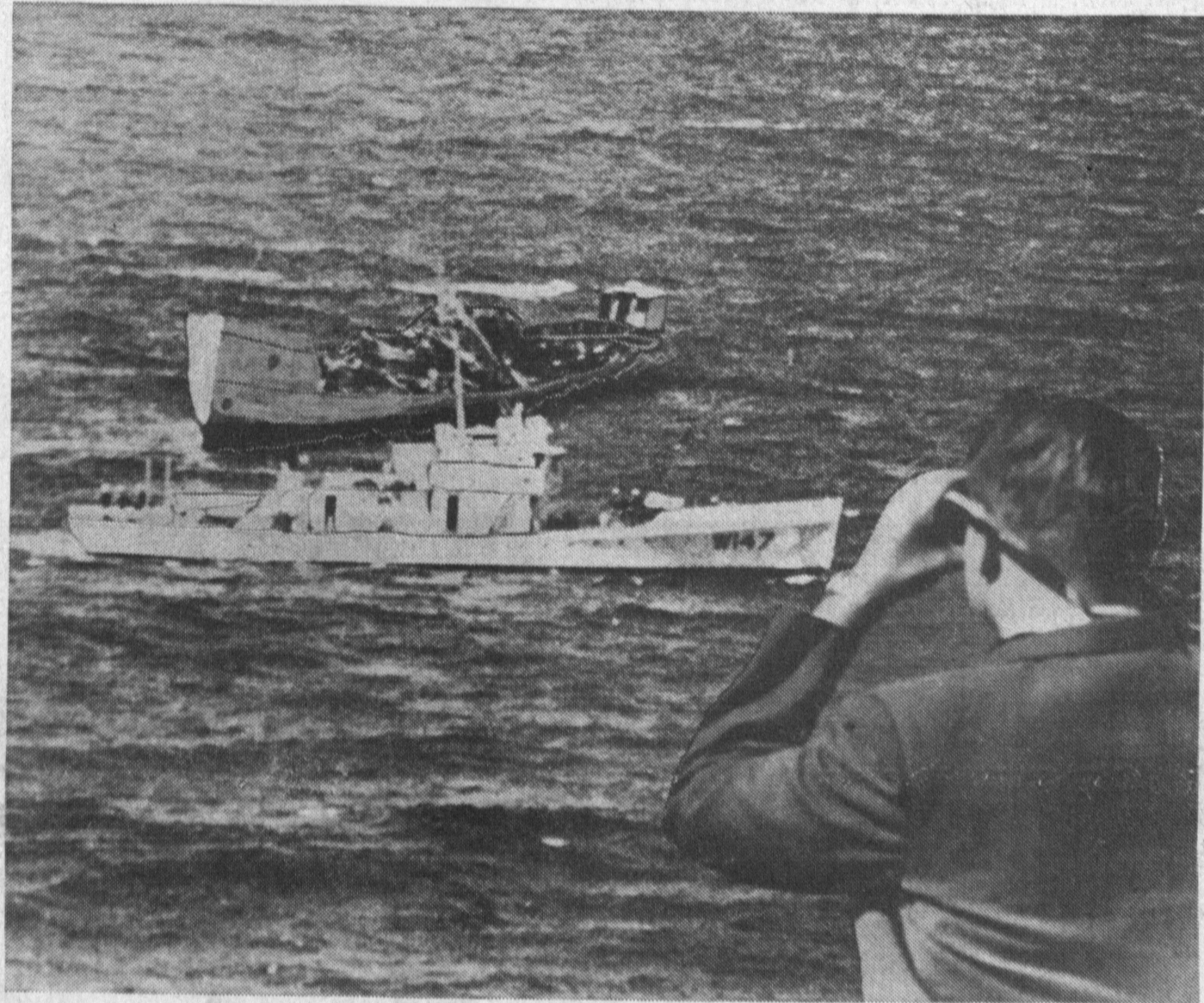
Judge William B. Keene, in South Bay Municipal Court, fined them each \$225, gave them suspended 10-day jail sentences and placed them on probation for two years.

Inside the Press

Women B1
Entertainment A6
Crossword B2
Table Hoppin' A6



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DRIFTING HULL of the old excursion boat, Avalon, is seen drifting approximately 600 yards off the Palos Verdes shoreline. An unidentified passerby watches as a Coast Guard cutter circles the stripped-down vessel. Several attempts to get a line aboard the drifting hull were futile. —PRESS Photo.

CATALINA SHIP DISAPPEARS

Former luxury passenger ship, SS Avalon, was reported adrift by the Coast Guard Thursday and later presumed sunk off Torrance Beach. Coast Guard aircraft searched in vain this morning to uncover a trace of the vessel which was bobbing in the high surf dangerously close to the beach at dusk Thursday.

The CG Cutter Morris was dispatched to the scene to stand by after the Avalon was listed by authorities as a derelict and a menace to navigation. The ship, according to officials, was anchored some distance from the shore when high winds in the early morning hours caused the moorings to break loose.

By noon, the Avalon was within 650 feet from the shore and less than a mile and Avalon, Catalina Island,

of the infamous "Graveyard of Ships" where the Greek freighter Dominator went aground and broke up against the rocks in March of 1961.

Only the hull remains of the 265-foot long Avalon, which before her retirement several years ago carried more than a million passengers between Wilmington and Avalon, Catalina Island.



INJURED BOY is comforted by passers by after he was struck by an auto Thursday night. Theodore Earnest Duncan, 15, 2278 W. 230th St. was taken to Little Company of Mary Hos-

pital with a possible fractured leg, cuts and bruises. Driver of the car, was William Hayes Tripp, 41, 2450 W. 234th St.

PRESS photo



RECEIVING congratulations from Assistant Police Chief Mervin Porter (left) and Captain John Maistri is Officer Charles B. Oates. The local police department was honored this

week as Oates was elected president of the local chapter of the Police Officers Research Association of California.

—PRESS photo