

Crenshaw Class Gets Letter from Viet Nam

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VICTORY FLAG . . . Sharon Coffee (top), president of the Torrance High Pep Club, unfurls a new Victory Flag which will be flown at the school following each victory in an athletic contest. She gets some help from Julia Takayama (left), senior class president, and Judi Rynhart, new student body president. The Maroon and Gray flag, which features a large "V", symbolic of the athletic slogan, and a torch which represents the school motto, "Let There Be Light," was designed by Margherita Gigliotti. (Press-Herald Photo)

Teenage Purse Snatchers Strike Twice In Torrance

LETTER FROM VIET NAM

Soldier Writes To Say 'Thanks'

(Editor's Note: During the weeks before Christmas, children in Mrs. Mary Lou James' kindergarten classes at Crenshaw Elementary School collected cookies and candies for U.S. Servicemen now fighting in Viet Nam. The packages also included drawings which the children did in class.

One of the packages was sent to men in Detachment A-214 of the 5th Special Forces Group, an airborne unit of the U. S. Army's Special Forces. Others were mailed to Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps units in Viet Nam.

The following letter was received last week by the class. It comes from S/Sgt. Gene A. Graham, to whom the Army package was addressed. Sgt. Graham is from Lomita.

The picture of the triplets which Sgt. Graham mentions is of David, Danny, and DeWayne Watson, who are in the two classes Mrs. James teaches. It shows each of the boys in a uniform of one of the branches of the Armed Services.)

19 Jan. 1966
Viet Nam

Dear Children,

We received your package of goodies and also the beautiful drawings by Kito, Timmy, and David.

Thank you so much for thinking of us during the Holy season. I know the other men in the Navy, Marines, and Air Force enjoyed their (packages) as much as we did.

We have the triplet's picture on the wall of our camp. Looking at it helps us remember why we are here.

We received cards, letters, and packages from all over the states, many from schools, clubs, church organizations, factories, the VFW, and the American Legion. This country was flooded with food and gifts from the kindest people in the world—the American people.

I'm enclosing a photo of some of my medics holding sick call in a village near here. We visit them each week and fix their hurts.

Our team also gave them toys and clothing for Christmas. We even had Santa Claus visit them. Many of the children here were afraid of him at first, but soon began to smile when he gave them each a doll or ball. Some got little plastic rabbits, ducks, or other little animals.

Their homes are made of straw and sticks or bamboo strips. They're built on stilts to keep insects and other ani-

mals out. They cook over an open pit in the center of the house, which causes the house to fill up with smoke.

They have no beds or furniture, just a few baskets or mats which they weave from bamboo.

What little we do for them means so much.

I hope all of you had a happy Christmas and that Santa was real good to you.

My family lives in Lomita, Calif., which is not too far from you.

Thank you again for the package. May God bless you all.

S/Sgt. Gene A. Graham

15-Year-Old Arrested on Dope Charge

A 15-year-old North High girl was arrested Friday afternoon and charged with possession and use of dangerous drugs.

Torrance police were called to the school shortly after noon by Mrs. Melvina Kovinick, vice principal, after a physical education instructor reported the girl was "acting strange."

"I only took three pills. I'm not going to tell you where I got them," the girl told police officers.

Officers seized 22 tablets believed to be Seconal.

Burglars Enter 3 Homes, Medical Unit

Burglars struck three Torrance homes and a medical building Friday, getting a color television set and other items worth more than \$850.

The color television set and several small appliances were taken from the home of William H. Moon at 1924 W. 235th St. Moon told police he returned from dinner about 8 p.m. Friday and found his home ransacked.

The burglars apparently entered the home through a living room window, ran-

sacked the house, and took the television set, a steam iron, toaster, waffle iron, and clock radio. Moon valued the items at \$632.

Theft of a stereo record player, two speakers, and 10 records was reported at 10 p.m. Friday by Mrs. Lena Redfean of 2610 Apple Ave.

Mrs. Redfean was at a night school class when the burglars pried open a sliding glass door and entered her home, police said. She said the stereo and records were worth about \$105.



PLAN BEAUTY CONTEST . . . Miss Jan Bradshaw, reigning Miss Torrance, discusses plans for the 1966 Miss Torrance Beauty Pageant with Leonard Ensminger (left), administrator of Torrance Memorial Hospital, and Flavio Bisignano, owner of beauty college chain. Ensminger and Bisignano are serving as co-chairmen for the sponsoring Torrance Chamber of Commerce. The contest will be held Friday, March 11, at the Torrance Recreation Center. One of the first duties of the new Miss Torrance will involve the 1966 Armed Forces Day Parade in Torrance. (Press-Herald Photo)

Beauty Pageant Planning Completed, Chairmen Say

Plans for the 1966 Miss Torrance Beauty Pageant have been completed, co-chairmen Flavio Bisignano and Leonard A. Ensminger have just announced.

The pageant, sponsored by the Torrance Chamber of Commerce, will be held Friday, March 11, at the Torrance Recreation Center.

The new Miss Torrance will succeed Miss Jan Bradshaw as the city's official hostess. She will represent Torrance at a variety of special events, including the Armed Forces Day Parade and the Tournament of Roses, as well as at Chamber of Commerce and city events.

Contestants must be residents of the city or have lived at a Torrance mailing address for at least 90 days prior to the contest. Girls employed by Torrance firms for at least 90 days prior to

the contest also are eligible. Girls must be high school graduates or members of the June, 1966, graduating class. All contestants must be single.

Contestants will be judged on overall attractiveness, including poise, speech, charm, and figure. Judges will be

looking for a young lady who, in their opinion, is best qualified to represent the community.

Entry forms may be obtained at the Torrance Chamber of Commerce offices, 1510 Cravens Ave.

A rehearsal will be held Monday, March 6, and all contestants must attend.

Strip Has 11,900 in Population

Population of the Shoestring Strip area of the City of Los Angeles reached 11,900 on Oct. 1, 1965, the Los Angeles City Planning Department has just reported.

The new estimate represents an increase of 200 over the estimated population of Oct. 1, 1964.

Total population of the City of Los Angeles was estimated at 2,758,500—compared to 2,701,700 on Oct. 1, 1964.

The estimate placed the population of Southern Los Angeles—including areas with Gardena, Torrance, Harbor City, Wilmington, and San Pedro mail addresses—at 137,200, an increase of only 900 over the figures reported in October, 1964.

Elementary school enrollment in the strip area was estimated at 1,242, a decrease of four over the 1,246 reported last year.

There are 4,176 dwelling units in the area, with 3,814 units actually occupied, the department reported.

Money, Papers Stolen

An unidentified teenager snatched a purse from a 30-year-old Torrance woman late Friday afternoon in the Central Torrance area, escaping with \$5 in cash and a \$58 check.

Romelia Proden, 2413 Carson St., told police she was walking south on Beech Street near the intersection with Sonoma Street when the youth approached her, grabbed her purse, and ran north on Beech Street.

Mrs. Proden said the youth was 17 or 18 years old and had light brown hair. He was wearing a brown shirt and gray slacks, she said.

THE YOUTH also grabbed a package containing a sweater and a pair of shoes, knocking her to the ground, Mrs. Proden told officers.

She reported the theft at 4:20 p.m. Friday, less than 24 hours after another Torrance woman had reported her purse snatched by a trio of teenagers.

Mrs. Barbara J. Palmer, 1622 Beech Ave., told police she was walking toward her car after leaving a market at the Del Amo Center when she "felt my purse being pulled from me."

MRS. PALMER, who received several bruises in a scuffle with one of the youths, screamed to attract the attention of her son, Gregory, who was waiting in her car. The boy ran to his mother's aid as the trio fled from the area.

One of the youths pulled her purse from her while a (Continued on Page A-2)

City Election Pot Is Boiling

A rematch of a hard-fought 1958 race for Torrance mayor shaped up this week with the announced intention of Nicholas O. Draile, councilman from 1948 to 1964, that he would seek to unseat Albert Isen, who has occupied the mayor's chair since Draile handed the gavel over to him in 1955.

Draile told the Press-Herald Friday that he thought it was "time for a change."

A third entrant in the mayor's race could be Dale R. Fraser, who lives at 21709 Ladeene Ave.

First to file for one of the three council seats at stake was Alfred G. Cagle of 22519 Susana Ave. Others taking out papers include incumbent

J. A. Beasley, Leo F. X. Salisbury, LeVane M. Forsythe, Dr. Frank J. Briganti, Edward Talbert, and John A. Abshire.

Vernon W. Coll, incumbent city clerk, has announced for re-election and Thomas C. Rupert, incumbent city treasurer, has filed papers for election.

One candidate has filed papers for election to the Lomita City Council. Joe Rivers, who lives at 207 W. 253rd Place, filed on Thursday, the first day filing was open. Nominating papers have been picked up by Bryan A. Raber, and Ray H. Ferrin. Mayor Clyde Bernhardt also has picked up nomination papers.

All nominating papers must be filed by noon, Feb. 17.

Power Line Cut; Homes Waterless

Several hundred South Torrance homes were left without water for more than an hour late Friday afternoon when a power line failed.

The power line, which Southern California Edison Co. officials said was cut, serves a pumping station near Crenshaw Boulevard and Rolling Hills Road.

Emergency crews repaired the line and restored service to the water pumping station about 6 p.m.

Festival of Plays Set

South High Thespians will stage their annual One-Act Play Festival Friday in the school cafeteria. Performances will begin at 8 p.m.

Three one-act plays will be presented, according to Mrs. Joan Bingham, Thespian sponsor.

Admission to the One-Act Play Festival is \$1 for adults and 50 cents for children. South High students with student body cards may purchase tickets for 75 cents.

Go Go Amendment on Agenda . . .

Mayor Albert Isen's proposed charter amendment to outlaw topless waitresses will go before the City Council Tuesday. Isen, who first proposed the "Go Go" amendment two weeks ago, will ask councilmen to place the amendment on the April 12 municipal ballot for a vote of the city's residents. The proposed amendment is similar to a city ordinance adopted last year which prohibits public exposure of female breasts. Councilmen will convene at 5:30 p. m. Tuesday for their regular weekly session.

Left Turn Arrows Due . . .

State Division of Highways officials apparently have done an about face in the battle for left turn arrows on the Torrance Boulevard approaches at Hawthorne Boulevard. It was reported Friday. City Manager Edward J. Ferraro told the Press-Herald a proposal by the city of Torrance has been sent back for some modifications, but said he believed the state would install the signals. District Traffic Engineer Z. Holzman asked the city to make technical modifications in its request for the left turn signals, Ferraro said. The request will be resubmitted once the changes have been made.

Torrance Man Killed . . .

One of two men who met a fiery death in an Orange County traffic accident Friday was identified as Robert Sebastian Nelson, 25, of 5808 Pacific Coast Hwy. Identification of the two men, who died about 6:30 a.m. Friday when their car went out of control on the Santa Ana Freeway and collided with a trash truck, was delayed for nearly 10 hours because the bodies were so badly burned. The second man was identified as Elmer P. Finelle, 30, of North Hollywood. The two vehicles were welded together by the intense heat, California Highway Patrol officers said.