

Board Launches Do-It-Yourself Project

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(Editorial, Page 50)

50th Year — No. 93



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TWO OFFICERS FOUND GUILTY

Judge Holds Decision on 'How Guilty'

Two Torrance police officers, charged with the theft of \$1,700 from two women store clerks in South Los Angeles last July, have been found guilty of grand theft charges by Superior Court Judge Allen Miller in Inglewood.

Judge Miller ruled after taking the case on transcripts of the preliminary hearing for Robert Keith, 28, of 2179 Sepulveda Blvd., and Roger L. Jacobson, 25, of 3610 Emerald St.

While announcing his findings that the two were guilty of the grand theft charges, Judge Miller withheld ruling on the legal effect of the reports that both men were armed at the time of the crime.

THE FACT that the two officers carried guns during the crime normally would make them subject to a felony sentence, including prison terms. The two officers had said during preliminary hearings in the case that as policemen they were required to be armed at all times, even when off duty. Judge Miller said he would rule on the question of the guns when the two men are returned for sentencing on Jan. 2. Both were permitted to remain free on the \$2,500 bail they have posted.

Firemen Win New Platoon

A change from the present two-platoon system in the city's fire department was approved Tuesday evening by City Councilmen. The city will adopt a three-platoon system, effective Jan. 1, 1964, if the necessary ordinances are passed.

The council acted on motion of Victor Benstead, chairman of council police and fire committee, in adopting a motion instructing the city attorney to prepare the ordinances and place them on the Dec. 3 agenda.

The three-platoon system will reduce the work week to 60.3 hours, and would put firemen on a 24 hours on, 48 hours off, system. Each of three platoons would work one-third of the time. No increase in fire department personnel will be needed.

The work week will be reduced by more than four hours if the new plan is finally approved. Adoption of the system will open 10 new positions in the fire department, including a battalion chief, five captains, and four engineers positions. All promotions will be made within the department.

Annual maximum salary totals will jump by \$17,000, due to the increased number of top-ranking positions.

Plane Slams On Runway

Failure of a landing gear has been given as the probable cause of a crash landing by a single-engine plane at Torrance Municipal Airport Sunday evening. No one was hurt in the accident.

Airport officials were told by William W. Walker, 41, of Artesia that he was piloting the four-place plane when the landing gear collapsed as the plane was landing. With Walker was his wife, Dorothy, 38, when the plane raked across the runway.



FOR ROSE FLOAT . . . Bob Vroman (left), chairman of the city's Tournament of Roses committee, accepts check from Fred Hansen, president of the Torrance Civitan Club, for that organization's share of its Rancho Day proceeds. The Civitan Club was able to make one of the largest donations as a result of the Rancho Days event last fall. (Herald Photo)

Helpers Sign Up For Job

Board of Education members have found a new way to save money, and they're getting plenty of help.

Board President Bert M. Lynn took a "let's do it ourselves" attitude at the Monday board meeting in an effort to find a way to build a concession stand for West High School without spending too much money.

Architects' estimates for a complete concession stand at the Warrior football field topped \$12,000 — which the district doesn't feel it can spend—so Lynn suggested the district have the contractor pour the foundation and he would help finish the building.

LYNN VOLUNTEERED to work two days laying cement blocks if foundations, rough plumbing and electrical work, and steel reinforcing bars were put into place by the contractor. The district would buy only the materials, which will cost about \$3,000.

West High PTA members volunteered to furnish hot coffee and sandwiches, and that brought a promise of work from Dr. Kurt Shery. Not to be outdone, Albert Charles and William Hanson offered their help too, and everything was settled.

AS WORD of the new economy move spread, Lynn's telephone began to ring. So far, says Lynn, an architect, a brick mason, four carpenters, a tile setter, and a landscape architect have offered their services. The state inspector has offered to conduct the inspections on the weekend for free.

What happens now? Simple, says Lynn. "We'll build the best looking concession stand around."

First Grade Now Open to 5-Year Olds

Five-year-olds who can pass required physical and mental tests can now be admitted to the first grade, following action by the Board of Education Monday evening.

The board adopted policy statements to put a new state law into effect in the local schools.

Children in the kindergarten class may be put in the first grade at the request of their parents, provided the children meet the necessary requirements and have the approval of their parents.

The accelerated program will be limited to the top five per cent in the kindergarten class. Students will have to demonstrate (Continued on Page 9)

Schools Seek to Recover Damages

A \$2 million damage suit has been filed against six Southern California building hardware suppliers by Attorney General Stanley Mosk. The suit follows a criminal anti-trust action filed against the same firms in January of this year.

The damage suit seeks triple damages from the six firms on behalf of several school districts, including the Torrance Unified School District.

The suit alleges price-fixing on the part of the firms in the sale of hardware used in public construction work. The Attorney General asked for damages of \$22,100 for the Torrance schools, which total more than \$66,000 when tripled.

Rain: 1.23-in.

A Pacific rainstorm which brought moderate to heavy rainfall to the Southland Tuesday night and Wednesday morning dumped 1.23 inches of moisture at Torrance airport, attendants there reported yesterday.



GONE HUNTING . . . Richard Rynearson, owner of Knight's Archery Supply, 1620 Gramercy Ave., points to rack which held expensive hunting and target bows when he closed shop Tuesday evening. The bows, along with other equipment with a total value of more than \$900 were taken by a thief who broke a glass door to gain entry early Wednesday. (Herald Photo)

Rain-Slick Roads Cause 4 Injuries

Rain-soaked streets got the blame for several traffic accidents Tuesday night and early Wednesday, injuring four persons.

A head-on collision on Pacific Coast Highway near Torrance Airport before midnight Tuesday sent Edwin Lee Clement, 38, of Los Angeles, and Diane Darlyn Noble, 23, of Redondo Beach to Little Company of Mary Hospital for treatment of injuries.

Registration Deadline Set

Deadline for registration to vote in the Feb. 4 special school election is Dec. 12, according to Mrs. Polly Watts, member of the Board of Education.

Voters will be able to register to vote at the city hall, 3031 Torrance Blvd. Deputy registrars also will be available at all PTA meetings through the Dec. 12 deadline.

City Manager Meets State Investigators Today at 2

City Manager Wade Peebles has been identified as the second man on the list of those to be questioned by representatives of the attorney general's office in a continuing probe into several facets of Torrance city government.

Peebles confirmed reports that he had been subpoenaed to appear before the battery of questioners in Los Angeles, and said he was scheduled to appear at 2 p.m. today.

Police Chief Percy G. Bennett led what many expect to be a parade of witness when

Lyle Archie Woodruff, 26, a truck driver for a Torrance market, received cuts on his nose and forehead when his small car slued off Madrona Avenue near Sonoma about 2:30 a.m. Wednesday and slammed into a power pole, shearing it off above the ground.

WOODRUFF TOLD investigating officers that he swerved to miss an unlighted barricade placed in the street to warn of water standing in the street. He lost control of the vehicle when he swerved, he said.

A short time later, Thomas L. Brown, 45, a Los Angeles toolmaker, was ejected from his 10-year-old sedan when it smashed into a concrete island holding a traffic control signal on Western Avenue at the entrance to the Douglas Aircraft plant. Brown was taken to Harbor General Hospital with multiple lacerations and possible internal injuries.

Twenty-three-year-old Jack Leroy Garrabrant, 24401 Neece (Continued on Page 9)

he spent two days with the investigators last week.

The probe was undertaken by the attorney general's office after both the City Council and the district attorney's office requested his intervention in a growing dispute between the two offices.

Investigation into the Torrance situation began last summer after three police officers were arrested within a 10-day period on felony charges. Two of those officers were found guilty Monday of grand theft charges.

A Penny for your Thoughts

The Pennies Photographer asked several area housewives this week, "When do you do your Christmas shopping?"

Mrs. Robert Jones, 629 Via Del Monte:
"I always start my shopping when the stores have their August clearance sales. I never get everything at once, so I just go on from there and buy the things as I find what I am looking for."

Mrs. Paul Peterson, 4125 Via Nivel:
"I start my shopping immediately after Halloween because I never get in the mood for it before Halloween. I have many relatives in the east, so I make a list and then finish it in about four days. I do lots of knitting and sewing for my teenage nieces, and do some shopping right up until Christmas."

Mrs. Ernest Oberheim, 636 Via Del Monte:
"I start in September. Whenever I see something I want to get, I buy it then and there. I mail a lot back east, so I have to shop early. I still have a few more things to buy, but I'll be finished by Dec. 6."

Mrs. H. G. Portman, Jr., 548 Via Media:
"I start right after we get through with our Yule Parlor here. Many of my gifts go out of state, and I have to hurry. I usually have a good idea of what I am going to buy, so I get it done quickly when I start. This time of year keeps me very busy."

Mrs. John Comeau, 645 Paseo de la Playa:
"I do my shopping from September to Dec. 20. I am about half done now, and most of my shopping is for gifts for local people. Usually I have a real good idea what I want, so I just go out and try to buy it."

HERALD PHONE NUMBERS
NEWS . . . FA 8-4000
SOCIETY . . . FA 8-5164
CLASSIFIED . . . FA 8-4000
(Ask for Ad-Taxer)
For Home Delivery
Phone FAirfax 8-4000

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For Thanksgiving

Children Awaiting Parents in Korea

By JERRY REYNOLDS
Herald Staff Writer

When two Torrance couples board an airliner tomorrow night at International Airport, they'll be headed toward one of the happiest Thanksgiving holidays they've ever had.

The big silver liner will lift off the runway at 10 p.m. tomorrow, and touch down some 26 hours later in Korea. There, 58 couples will see their newly adopted children for the first time — and the two Torrance couples will probably lead the group off the plane.

For Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Adams and the Rev. and Mrs. Donald Flentge, the trip will mean the end of a long-awaited dream, complicated at times by red tape and legal requirements. Both families will complete adoption proceedings for Korean youngsters and return to the states a few days later

with their latest blessed events.

MR. AND MRS. Adams, 21405 Talisman St., are parents of four sons who have married and started to raise families of their own. They are also parents of two Korean girls, adopted in 1959 under a program of the American Mothers of Korean Orphans. They are going to Korea to adopt a third daughter.

Rev. and Mrs. Flentge, 20516 Kenwood Ave., are parents of a 9-year-old Korean boy whom they adopted in 1959, and they will be bringing back a brother for their son.

The trip to Korea was made necessary by state law which prohibits proxy adoptions. In 1959, when both families adopted their first Korean orphans, a special bill, permitting proxy adoptions, had been passed by the Congress. The bill, which

expired in 1962, was not renewed. Thus, the trip.

EXCITEMENT at both households is high. Sometimes, you wonder if anyone really knows what's going to happen next. For Steven Flentge, a fourth grader at Van Deene Avenue School, the prospect of a brother is at times overpowering. His new brother, Choi Sung Kun, is a 7-year-old who comes from the same orphanage that was Steven's home for several years. Steven is now a naturalized American.

Across town, the Adams household is busy preparing for its new arrival. Janet Keli, whose Korean name is Song Bok Hee, is a 22-month-old "little darling" who will join Calla Jean, 7½, and Lanette Lee, 5½, in a short 10 days. Calla Jean and Lanette Lee re- (Continued on Page 9)