

City to Save \$60,000 on New Libraries

A plan that would save nearly \$60,000 in city money and would move up completion dates for two proposed Torrance libraries by as much as a year, was offered last night by a city councilman.

Plan came to light when it was learned that the Charles H. Schiermeyer and Son Construction Company of South Gate

had submitted a bid for building the proposed Isabella Henderson Library in West Torrance that was nearly \$30,000 less than the \$70,000 set aside for constructing the facility.

Councilman Willys Blount, announced candidate for mayor of the city of Torrance, pointed out that the \$70,000 had been set aside for the new li-

brary plus another \$20,000 for furnishings.

IN RESERVE

An equivalent amount, he said is also in reserve for the proposed Waleria library.

Using the same plans for the two facilities and employing the services of the low bidder would save approximately \$60,000, he said.

Inconvenience of building two libraries at the same time could also be overcome, he stated.

Present site of the Waleria fire station will soon be vacated and the building could be used as a temporary library while the new structure is being built.

Waleria fire station personnel and equipment will

be used to staff the new station at Torrance Municipal Airport. New Waleria library is to be built on the site of the present facility.

WINDFALL

"This could really be a windfall for Torrance homeowners and taxpayers," Blount said.

"The council had agreed to go ahead with plans for

the Waleria plant but had intended to hold off on construction until after the rainy season.

"However, by the time the site is ready for construction the rains will be over."

Blount pointed out that the low bidder, one of several firms whose estimates ran in the same, general bracket, was a reliable and reputable company pres-

ently building a chapel and parochial school in a nearby community.

"There is now no further need to wait until late next year for the Waleria library," Blount concluded. "By going ahead now we can save a substantial amount of money, get the new libraries in operation sooner and accelerate services to the citizens of Torrance."

LATEST TORRANCE POPULATION

108,506

October 1, 1961, Estimate



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GIRL DEAD IN CRASH

School Board Rejects Metal Classrooms

Torrance school district last night shelved plans for constructing "portable classrooms" at the new million-dollar Victor plant and agreed, 3-2, to go ahead with permanent facilities more in keeping with the general architecture of the school.

Board, at its mid-December meeting, has agreed to go ahead with plans to install the all-metal classrooms at the new school. Voting in favor of the action, which was recommended by school administrators, were Board President William Hanson, as well as members Albert Charles and recently appointed Dr. Kurt Shery.

Shortly after the decision was announced Shery reported that he had obtained in formation previously unavailable and would ask that the issue be reopened so that he could change his vote.

SWITCHES VOTE

When the matter was brought up again last night, Shery sided with board members Bert Lynn and William Boswell, Jr., in voting for the permanent installations.

Shery pointed out that he had first voted for the portable classrooms because of an apparent savings of \$13,000 in the relative cost of the two.

It became evident later, he said, that differences in maintenance costs would quickly gobble up the money originally saved.

Scuffling at administrators'



CHANGE OF POLICY—Dr. Kurt Shery, newest member of the Torrance School Board, last night reversed an earlier decision favoring the installation of "portable classrooms" at the new Victor School. Issue was reopened at last night's meeting. Photographer's camera caught the scene when

Shery, right, voted in favor of permanent classrooms. Board member Albert Charles and President William Hanson, center, favored the portable over the permanent structures. Also favoring the permanent structures were members Bert Lynn and William Boswell Jr., not shown.

claims that the buildings could be transferred to other locations if the need arose, he said.

"The district has some 250 of these metal buildings, most in use for several years and they've never moved one yet!"

FALLS IN DITCH . . .

Torrance Man Wounded During Holdup; Bandit Crashes Car, Escapes Detectives

In a scene reminiscent of a bad movie scenario, an armed gunman fumbled an attempted gas station hold-up, shot a Torrance attendant in the hand when he resisted, lost control of his car during the getaway and plunged 15 feet into the Dominguez Channel, and finally made his escape on foot with the posse . . . er . . . sheriff's deputies close behind.

Eddie Brimbery, 45, of 3157 W. 182nd St., Torrance, an attendant at a gas station at 13815 Crenshaw in Lawn-

dale, told investigating officers that the suspect drove into his station early Monday morning and purchased gasoline.

In payment the bandit presented a \$20 bill but when Brimbery started to make change the suspect snatched it back and pointed a gun at him.

The attendant said that he ran into the building and locked the door, whereupon the bandit fired once through the door hitting him in the hand.

Officers Ray Roe and Robert Rafferty, riding nearby in a squad car, heard the shot and arrived to see the suspect racing from the scene. During the chase the gunman's car toppled into the drain at which point the bandit finally escaped on foot.

Gun used in the holdup was found in the car.



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Four Others Injured In Two-Car Pileup On Crenshaw Blvd.

A 19-year old Rolling Hills girl was killed New Year's eve in a head-on collision in Torrance.

Death of the girl dashed hopes expressed by the police department, that the city could get through the entire Christmas - New Year's holiday without a traffic fatality.

Injured in the crash

which claimed the life of Lynda Diane Stout, 2576 Harbor Sight Drive, were Daniel Buchanan, 20, of El Segundo, driver of the vehicle in which the girl was riding, and passengers Sidney Carmichael, 18, 2578 Harbor Sight Drive, and Richard Gelatt, 19, of Hawthorne.

DRIVER HURT

Also seriously injured was the driver of the second car, Peggy Estelle Duncan, 28, of South Gate.

Investigating officers reported that the accident occurred on the curved section of Crenshaw Blvd. just north of Pacific Coast

Highway.

Still under treatment at Little Company of Mary Hospital are Mrs. Duncan, whose condition is listed as serious, Miss Carmichael, whose condition is classified as "fair" by hospital authorities, and Gelatt, whose condition is listed as "good." Buchanan, who was engaged to the dead girl, was released by hospital authorities yesterday noon.

Officers said that Miss Carmichael attended Harbor Junior College classes with the dead girl and made her home with her during school terms.

Torrance Float Cops Second

Torrance's entry in Monday's Tournament of Roses Parade won a second place award for cities of over 100,000 population after being edged from first place by the Glendale entry.

Theme of the Torrance float was "Torrance by the Sea." Entry depicted a huge seahorse with a gnome riding upon it.

Sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, work was done by volunteers led by chairmen Margaret Clarke and Robert Vroman.

First Arrival

First new baby of 1962 made his appearance just 13 minutes after the start of the new year.

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Meyer, 22716 Greenwood Ave., the husky six pound, two ounce youngster was delivered at Little Company of Mary Hospital.

Bandits Rob Hardware Store, Tie Employees

A trio of armed robbers held up a Torrance hardware store over the weekend and made their escape with an estimated \$3,000 after forcing an employee to open the safe.

Curt Burkes, 36, counterman at Burko Hardware,

23831 Hawthorne told Torrance detectives that the three men, all dressed in tan shirts and trousers, entered the store Saturday evening, held him up with a pistol and shotgun, and tied him up after forcing him to lie on the floor.

The trio then forced an-

other employee, Robert Burk to open the safe. After removing all of the bills in the safe they tied up the second man and made their escape.

Both store employees said that the men were between 25 and 30 years of age.



YOUNG BUSINESSMEN—James H. Doolittle, center, chairman of the board, Space Technology Laboratories, here presents the charter to Junior Achievement company president Ron Surber, of Torrance High. To be known as Logo Products, the board of the STL-sponsored company consists of, left to right, Bruce Hochstatter, Leuzing-

er High; Jay Allen, Morningside; Surber; Doolittle; Carole Kerley, El Segundo High; and Brenda Munns, Leuzinger. Part of the state-wide Junior Achievement program of actual business experience for young students the program allows them to organize miniature businesses of their own.



READY FOR TOMORROW — New control tower at Torrance Municipal Airport will be unveiled at a special ceremony tomorrow morning. Here airport manager Jack Egan tours with City Councilman J.

A. Beasley in a sneak preview of the \$100,000-plus facility. Cost of the tower was shared by the federal government and the city of Torrance, with the government picking up the heavy end of the tab.