

State Drops College Condemnation Suit

Condemnation proceedings against Nortronics, Inc., for a 50-acre parcel of Palos Verdes Peninsula land will be dropped by the State Board of Public Works, Assemblyman Charles E. Chapel (R-46th District) told the Press-Herald Friday.

Chapel said the board voted unanimously to drop the condemnation action. The land was to have been part of the site for the Palos Verdes State College.

Dismissal of the condemnation proceedings was voted by the board during a hearing Friday in Sacramento.

State land officials said inflated land values caused by zoning changes was the "basic reason" for dismissing the condemnation action.

Chapel said the condemnation action would take too much time to acquire the college site in a "reasonable time period." He added that Nortronics would probably appeal the decision if the state won "and we would all die of old age before we could have a college there."

The state previously had reached a stipulated agreement with Great Lakes Carbon Corp. for acquisition of

129 acres on the Peninsula. The larger parcel adjoins the Nortronics site. Chapel said the 129 acres is not sufficient for a college which plans to enroll 16,000 students. "Plans definitely never included land for a football field or other sports," Chapel said.

State land acquisition officials testified that the Rolling Hills Estates site would cost more than the \$5 million budgeted by the State Legislature.

"The board action today definitely does not mean that we will not have a college. State officials are considering

alternate sites in the Dominguez area and elsewhere," Chapel said.

While the Board of Public Works was meeting in Sacramento, the Palos Verdes Peninsula Planning Committee announced its decision to oppose the Peninsula site. The committee urged state officials and state college trustees to locate the college in Torrance in a resolution adopted Wednesday evening.

The Peninsula Planning Committee, chaired by James R. Ziegler of Rolling Hills, said accessibility, centrality of location, and availability

of jobs and housing for students were the primary reasons for its position.

The cost of acquiring sufficient land also was cited by the committee in its resolution.

Committee members include Elizabeth L. Shea, Raymond Schaefer, Charles T. Murphy, Allen D. Vogel, Douglas A. Waterman, Robert J. Rosevear, and Philip Abbott.

Trustees of the state college system asked the State Board of Public Works to acquire a minimum of 175 contiguous acres for the college

site when the Peninsula location was adopted last year. No land actually has been acquired for the college.

Assemblyman Chapel said he has introduced a bill (A.B. 3222) which will provide "an unspecified amount from the state construction program fund for college site acquisition." Hearings on the bill will be held June 3 at 3:45 p.m. before the Assembly Education Committee.

An alternate site in the Dominguez area, some nine miles north of the present Long Beach State College campus, is being considered

by state officials for the college.

Trustees of the college system have made no comment on the action by the Board of Public Works.

Plans are being made by the college staff to open in temporary quarters this fall. Dr. Leo F. Cain, president of the new college, has said about 75 freshmen and junior students will be enrolled.

Temporary quarters for the college are located in the Peninsula Center, where a planning staff has been making preparations for the fall opening.

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Peebles Gets Jail Term, Files Appeal

Former City Manager Wade E. Peebles, convicted by a jury on April 2 of perjury before attorney general investigators, is free on an appeal bond this weekend after hearing a Superior Court judge sentence him Thursday to three years' probation with six months in jail.

Peebles appeared before Superior Judge Mark Brandler with his attorney, Joseph Rosen, Thursday to hear the sentencing on the two-count perjury conviction.

Pleas by attorney Rosen

that Peebles be spared a jail term were turned down by Judge Brandler. Rosen had argued that the sentence would mean that Peebles could never again hold a public office.

The contention of the former city manager during the trial that he was under heavy pressures from Torrance councilmen was struck down by Judge Brandler when commenting on the sentence. The judge indicated Peebles should have made a full and complete disclosure to the attorney general if he was under such pressure and forced to act as a "hatchet man."

The former city manager, who lives at 4512 Vista Largo, has been working as a developer since he left the city post early in 1964. He was convicted of lying when he denied he had ordered police to follow former Councilman Robert B. Jahn until he could be arrested for some violation of law, and of lying about a swimming pool given to him by a contractor.

Jahn was arrested on a drunk driving charge in June, 1963, but the charge was dismissed. Jahn later filed a \$3 million damage suit against Peebles, Mayor Albert Isen, and four policemen as a result of the arrest.

\$400 Taken From Bank By Gunman

Between \$300 and \$400 was taken from a Torrance bank late Friday afternoon when a gunman wearing coveralls and a straw hat held up the Security First National Bank at 17512 Crenshaw Blvd.

Police said the gunman left the motor running in his car — believed to have been stolen — and entered the bank about 3:50 p.m. He waited behind a customer at the teller's window until the customer left.

Teller Joyce G. Rigdon, 40, told officers the man laid a note on the counter and displayed the gun.

"I have a gun. Do it quickly and quietly. No one will get hurt," the note read. Mrs. Rigdon put the money in a blue plastic carrying case and was asked, "Is that all?"

THE GUNMAN fled through a rear door and left the area in the car.

The suspect was described as between 30 and 35. He was between 5 feet 10 inches and 6 feet tall and wore colored glasses, according to witnesses.

Several home burglaries also were reported to Torrance police Friday. Richard Watanabe, 16703 Crenshaw Blvd., told officers someone had taken an FM radio tuner from his car. The tuner was worth \$170, Watanabe said.

KENNETH DOW, 21013 Donora St., reported the theft of a tire and the gear shift knob from his small foreign car. Evelyn Levine, 2126 W. 18th Place, told police someone entered her garage and took two pieces of luggage and several records. She valued the items at \$85.

More than \$300 was taken from Jean Bradford of 2642 Pacific Coast Hwy., officers were told. The money—\$100 cash and a check for \$216—was taken from her purse.

Thieves got a typewriter and a television set from the George L. Heaton home at 1816 Calamar. Mrs. Heaton reported the theft.

The Victor Women's Club will sponsor a "Capital Improvements" meeting tomorrow, 8 p.m., at the Victor Elementary School Cafeteria, corner of Victor and Spencer streets.

Speakers will be Edward J. Ferraro, city manager, and William Dundore, director of finance for the city. A discussion period will follow the speakers and the meeting is open to the public.

City Officials To Speak on 'Improvements'

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Welder Trapped In Fire

A welder was injured Friday afternoon when trapped by flames which apparently started when sparks from his torch ignited fumes from contact cement at a Torrance industrial plant.

Firemen responded to the two-alarm blaze at Kentile, Inc., 2929 California St., shortly before 1 p.m.

Injured was Perry Burkholder of 3306 Casita Ave., Los Angeles. He was rescued by firemen and taken to Little Company of Mary Hospital suffering minor second degree burns on the right arm and smoke irritation to the eyes. Hospital spokesmen also said Burkholder suffered possible pulmonary burns.

Acting Bn. Ch. Sam Diel was in charge of operations at the scene.

The welding torch apparently ignited the cement fumes in a 18-by-36-foot plywood building located inside the main plant. Damage to the interior building was extensive, firemen reported. Stock in the main plant was slightly damaged by water from an automatic sprinkling system.

Firemen extinguished the flames quickly after rescuing Burkholder from the top of the burning interior building.

Welder Trapped In Fire

Coin Club to Meet

A "question and answer" period will be conducted by George Finnell, first vice president of the Torrance Coin Club, at the Tuesday meeting, 8 p.m., Torrance Recreation Center.

Twenty-three current and retired employees of the city have been honored for their service to the city. The employees received service pins awarded a 20-year pin.

Sixteen employees got their 15-year service pins. They included John Agapito, Samuel Dial, Clarence Flagg, Samuel



WINDY GREETING... Assistant Secretary of Defense and Mrs. Charles J. Hitch were greeted by George S. Wing (left), general chairman for the Torrance Armed Forces Day celebration, and Lt. Gen. Roderic L. Hill, Adjutant General of California, Friday afternoon at Torrance Municipal Airport. Lt. Gen. Hill represented Governor Edmund G. Brown during the two-day festivities. Hitch will leave his post with the federal government shortly to become a vice president of the University of California. (Press-Herald Photo)

City Council Honors 18 Employees With 125 Years Combined Service

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Other 15-year veterans are John Atkinson, Sanitation department; Gladys E. Stock, finance department, and street department employees Lester D. Clouch, Robert A. Ernest, Kenneth G. Kirkruff, and Everett R. Wallace.

Retired city employees who received service pins included Gordon Clarke of the Fire Department, G. Schwenk of the street department, and H. Gregor, John G. Henderson, and Howard D. Webb of the Park Department.

On Dean's List

Vicky Kay Monger, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Richard F. Monger, 17021 Ermanita Ave., was among students cited on the Dean's List for academic superiority for the fall semester at the University of California, Santa Barbara. She is a graduate of North High School and a freshman history major.

Pentagon Aide Leads Tribute

One of the largest parade crowds in the city's history lined the streets in bright, sunny weather yesterday to watch the annual Armed Forces Day parade saluting the nation's military might.

Led by Assistant Secretary of Defense Charles J. Hitch, the parade moved through downtown Torrance and out Torrance Boulevard past the official stand in front of the city hall where it was reviewed by Secretary Hitch, top Southland military leaders, and by other high Southland and Torrance officials.

"This has been one of the best parades, ever," Mayor Albert Isen said.

SECRETARY HITCH, who has just been named a vice president for finance by the University of California and will leave his federal post soon, was principal speaker at the Armed Forces Day luncheon following yesterday's parade.

The commitment of U. S. military forces in Viet Nam and in the Dominican Republic, half way around the world, serves a common purpose, the secretary told those at the luncheon.

"That purpose is the collective defense of the Free World against Communist encroachment," he said.

"FOR MOST of its history, this nation followed the advice of its first president and avoided foreign entanglements, but World War I and

the events following that war which led inevitably to World War II convinced the vast majority of Americans that this nation could no longer avoid shouldering the responsibilities which spring from our great industrial and military power," he said.

Commenting on the problems of the Viet Nam struggle, the Secretary said it generally requires some 15 well-organized and equipped soldiers on the government's side to counter one guerrilla in an organized unit.

"This inequality arises from the fact that the guerrilla's mission is to destroy and terrorize; the government's job is to build and govern, and to defend those whom it would govern," he said.

DEVELOPMENT of the manned bomber is still being delayed, he told newsmen before the parade, because the Secretary of Defense has not been convinced that the follow-on bomber is necessary.

He added that the B-52, with modifications, can be kept flying until the mid-70s, and that the Air Force has had a hard time deciding just what kind of a bomber should be developed.

Emphasis now, he said probably will be placed on engine development. No acceleration of aircraft construction is anticipated as the result of the Viet Nam conflict, he said.

Board, Council to Meet - - -

Both the Torrance Board of Education and the City Council will face routine agendas when they convene for meetings this week. The school board will meet tomorrow at 7:30 p.m. at 2335 Plaza del Amo. Councilmen are scheduled to hold their regular session Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. in the city hall.

Crusade Chairman Named - - -

Dr. Wendell Black, president of Los Angeles Harbor College, has been named to direct the Harbor Area fall campaign for the United Crusade. Dr. Black will direct the activities of volunteers serving in Torrance, Lomita, Gardena, Wilmington, and Harbor City. The campaign will seek to raise funds for 244 United Crusade agencies and American Red Cross chapters.

Driver Hurt in Crash - - -

Donna Lynne Lubinski, 18, of 3523 W. 226th St., suffered minor injuries Friday afternoon when her car collided with a vehicle driven by Robert J. Schmidt, 31, of 2028 Reynosa Drive. Miss Lubinski was southbound on Cabrillo Avenue. Schmidt was attempting to make a left turn from Sepulveda Boulevard when the crash occurred.

VOLUNTEERS TOLD

YMCA Fund Reaches \$800,000

More than \$800,000 has been raised by the Torrance Family YMCA for the construction of new facilities at 2900 W. Sepulveda Blvd., volunteers were told Wednesday evening.

The total amount—almost \$805,500—is just \$19,500 short of the goal. The teams section, led by Rod Schwartz, fell \$2,124 short of the \$40,000 goal and special gifts chairman H. Ted Olson said his group will continue to work for the \$17,440 needed to reach the \$102,000 special gifts goal.

Divisions led by Gene Goranson, Marshall Stewart, Scott McIntire, Sally Wisdom, Bill Sprankling, and Ed Johnson exceeded their \$3,000

quotas, while the Bob Reid section raised \$13,500—\$1,500 more than its quota.

Three other sections expect to exceed their individual goals by the end of the week.

A Honda 50, donated to the YMCA by South Bay Honda Co., was awarded to Ralph Marzullo, who has brought in 158 pledges totaling \$10,822 in the past two years. Joe Wilcox, executive secretary of the "Y," said the social and craft patio adjacent to the club and craft room would be named in honor of Marzullo to recognize his efforts.

Mrs. James Rike was awarded four box seat tickets for a Dodger game for being

the second highest volunteer worker. A second gift for Mrs. Rike is being prepared, Wilcox said.

An informal dinner will be held Wednesday evening at 6:30 to bring the campaign to its end. Workers are invited to bring their youngsters along.

Bids for the new YMCA structure will be opened May 26. Construction is expected to begin June 10.

Two tall pine trees will be moved to the lot May 27 and planted in the center fire ring.

Individuals, clubs, or business firms wanting information on the campaign may call FA 8-3410.