

City Property Values Boosted \$10 Million

UNEQUALED CIRCULATION
AND EDITORIAL COVERAGE

- Torrance
- East Torrance
- Lomita
- Carson
- Harbor City
- Redondo Beach

Torrance Press-Herald

Published semi-weekly Wednesday and Sunday by King Williams Press, Inc. Entered as second class matter January 30, 1914, at Post Office, Torrance, California, under act of March 3, 1879.

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Series II, Vol. II, No. 4

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3238 Sepulveda Blvd., Torrance, California — Wednesday, July 14, 1965

By Carrier 50c Per Month
By Mail \$12 Per Year

10c Per Copy

64 Pages



MAN FROM MARS . . . The Martians haven't landed, it's just David Krug of Redondo Beach, a member of a crew which has been busy this week sandblasting traffic lines on Torrance Boulevard as the city gets the street ready for new left-turn channels between Crenshaw Boulevard and Madrona. (Press-Herald Photo)

Area Committee Revived By Local College Backers

Values In City Higher

Prospects for some decrease in tax rates at both the county and school district levels loomed here yesterday as County Assessor Philip Watson announced the assessed valuation for the county.

Watson reported a growth of 6.38 per cent in the value of land and real property in the county. A net gain of some \$20 million was reported for Torrance—more than twice the estimates on which school and city budgets were based.

The assessor said the value of all land and real estate property in the county was slightly more than \$13 billion. The growth, he added, is due primarily to new construction and rising land values.

ASSESSED valuation for Torrance increased from nearly \$254.6 million to \$265,065,260, Watson said. Only Los Angeles and Long Beach are valued higher.

County supervisors previously have announced a tax cut of about 5.5 cents per \$100 assessed valuation.

Dr. J. H. Hull, superintendent of Torrance schools, immediately said he would recommend a tax cut of 12.4 cents per \$100 to the Board of Education. His recommendation will be given to the board next week as the board considers an \$18.3 million publication budget.

IF DR. HULL'S recommendations are adopted, the new tax rate would be approximately \$4.40 per \$100, compared to \$4.52 last year.

City Manager Edward J. Ferraro told the Press-Herald the city could expect about \$175,000 additional revenue if the present tax rate is unchanged. The city rate currently is \$1.238 per \$100 assessed valuation—a rate which has remained the same for the past five years.

Whether taxpayers will actually save money, however, will not be decided until individual assessments are known.

WATSON SAID he had continued his reappraisal program, begun two years ago, in an effort to establish a uniform assessment of 25 per cent of market value throughout the county. He noted, however, that exempt properties had increased by some \$2 million, despite a decrease in the number of veteran exemptions.

Figures for surrounding cities also were announced. Lomita, which recently marked its first anniversary as an incorporated city, had a total valuation of \$20,614,250—up about \$1 over the figure established last year.

REDONDO BEACH gained about \$4.5 million, increasing to \$92,640,700.

Other figures include: Gardena, up about \$5 million to \$68,124,220; Hawthorne, up \$6 million to \$101,266,510; (Continued on Page A-3)



MAYORS SUM IT UP . . . Capsule comment on today's Mariner fly-by of Mars and the status of a four-year college to serve this area is emphasized by four Torrance area mayors following yesterday's reorganizing session of Southwest community leaders

seeking to settle the college site issue. Mayors from left are Frank Hogan, Lawndale; Clyde Barnhart, Lomita; Albert Isen, Torrance; and William Cruzgar, Redondo Beach. (Press-Herald Photo)

Other Sites Urged

Reactivation of the Committee for South Bay College in the South Bay and election of Lynne A. Frantz of Redondo Beach as its permanent chairman was completed yesterday at a luncheon meeting in the beach city.

The committee, first formed by Southwest area cities to battle proposals to put the new college in Fox Hills, was called together after the recent announcement in Sacramento that the Palos Verdes site was being abandoned by the state as a possible site.

AN ALTERNATE site which he claimed held much promise was offered for the group's consideration by Mayor Albert Isen at yesterday's meeting. He suggested the state look at the area above Walteria and between Crenshaw and Hawthorne boulevards.

"It's a wide-open area of approximately 160 acres and an adjacent 120 acres of county landfill could be available for parking and other such uses," Isen said.

MORE THAN half a hundred representatives from a dozen communities attended yesterday's session to hear Dr. Leo Cain, president of the college, say that much of the planning for buildings could probably be used on any site.

"On any ultimate site we probably will need some fund augmentation over the appropriation made some years ago," Dr. Cain said. He detailed the steps needed to secure a home for the college by reminding those at the meeting that the board of trustees had to pick a location, the State Department of Finance had to approve an

(Continues on Page A-3)

Street Divider Draws Protest

Construction bids for the improvement of a portion of 223rd Street in the Carson area were rejected by the Board of Supervisors yesterday so that supervisors may take another look at the project.

Rejection of the bids followed protests against the inclusion of a raised center median in the plans. Carson area businessmen object to the raised dividers because they feel it will hurt business.

Harry Marlow, chief deputy to Supervisor Kenneth Hahn, said the bids were rejected so supervisors can take "a new look at the entire project." A spokesman for Supervisor Burton W. Chace also said the question of raised medians would be re-examined.

Marlow and Howard Jones, chief deputy to Supervisor Chace, attended a meeting last week in the Carson area at which some 40 businessmen discussed the project as well as pending improvements on other major streets in the area. Businessmen are almost unanimously opposed to the dividers.

Homeowners in the area of 223rd Street have previously gone on record in favor of the raised dividers. There is some indication the homeowners may reconsider their position in light of the businessmen's protest.

R. B. Keith, president of the Carson Chamber of Commerce, told the Press-Herald, "We just don't want them raised medians on any business street."

Streets which Carson merchants have cited include

City Opens Job For Policeman

An opening in the Police Department of Torrance has been announced by the city. Final filing date is Aug. 18; examination date is Aug. 28.

Further information is available by contacting the Personnel Office, City Hall, 8031 Torrance Blvd.

Navy Says Land Here Not Needed

Land on which the Torrance Unified School District might some day build a daytime school for adults has been declared "excess to present needs" by the Navy, according to Dr. J. H. Hull, superintendent of schools.

An 18-acre parcel of land designated as the Torrance Annex to the U.S. Naval Supply Center, Long Beach, which is located on Washington Avenue between Lincoln and Crenshaw Blvd., is presently being screened for reassignment by the Navy.

If the Navy should find that it has no other need for the property, the Army and Air Force will get next crack at it. In the event that none of the armed forces put in a request for it, the land will be turned over to the General Services Administration (GSA) for disposal, as provided by the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949. If and when GSA is authorized to dispose of the land, the Navy will pass on the request of the Torrance Unified School District.

Traffic Studies Ordered

Increasing traffic in the vicinity of the Del Amo Shopping Center prompted Councilman David K. Lyman to call for a study on the need for traffic signals around the center during last night's council meeting.

Lyman said the center does an estimated \$50 million worth of business each year and shoppers can enter or leave the parking area only through uncontrolled intersections. He voiced particular concern about the problems of making a left turn onto Sepulveda Boulevard.

City Engineer Walter Nollac said a study was made some two years ago, but merchants in the center had not expressed a desire to purchase signals. Under present city policy, owners of the property would have to purchase the signals since they control private drives.

CITY MANAGER Edward J. Ferraro said signals would cost about \$20,000 each if they were "fully intergraded" and included left-turn arrows.

Lyman told his colleagues the expenditure "would be insignificant" if they prevented an accident at the parking entrance. Ferraro asked councilmen for 60 to 90 days for study of the problem.

DURING THE brief meeting, the council authorized Ferraro to begin negotiations with the Los Angeles city and county library systems to provide for free reciprocal use of the libraries. If an agreement can be negotiated, residents of the Los Angeles City strip area will be able to use the Torrance Library, while Torrance residents may use the Los Angeles City Library.

Councilmen also authorized the hiring of James M. Mont-

SCHOOL CAMPAIGN EXPENSES

New Ruling Won't Affect Torrance Board Members

A new ruling that candidates for school board offices last spring must file campaign expense statements apparently will have no effect on the Torrance Board of Education, Dr. J. H. Hull, superintendent of schools, said yesterday.

Dr. Hull said he had advised the Torrance board to ignore the ruling of County Counsel Harold W. Kennedy. Kennedy has ruled the provisions of the State Elections Code apply to candidates for boards of education, even though they are not specifically mentioned in the code.

NONE OF THE three trustees elected last April has filed a statement of expenses, Dr. Hull said. All three—Bert M. Lynn, William J. Hanson, and Dr. Donald E. Wilson—do have certificates of election signed by Kennedy, he added.

Cigars Mark Arrival of Unique Gift

Birthday presents come in all shapes and sizes, but City Planning Director Charles M. Shartle got one of the more unusual gifts Monday morning.

Weighing 7 pounds, 12 ounces, the 20-inch present was delivered at 1:30 a.m. Monday at Little Company of Mary Hospital.

Shartle and his wife named the little girl Linda Diane and announced her arrival last night by giving Mayor Albert Isen and his colleagues on the City Council the customary cigars.

Throughout Los Angeles County, however, some 700 candidates are affected by the ruling—including 233 winners.

The State Elections Code, which now applies to school elections, requires the expense statements within 35 days of the election or by the day before a winning candidate is sworn into office, whichever is first.

If the statement isn't filed properly, then the candidate does not get his job, says the code.

DR. HULL said he felt the ruling, which was sought by members of the Pasadena Board of Education, applied

to candidates who took office July 1. Torrance board members, elected in April, are seated at the first meeting in May of an election year.

"They wouldn't be any better off if they did comply," Dr. Hull said, "this is after the fact."

The new ruling will apply to the Torrance district in 1967, Dr. Hull said. At that time, all candidates will be required to file the necessary statements according to the provisions of the Elections Code.

Three new vice-principals have been appointed by the Board of Education.

William J. Lettunich was named vice-principal at Seaside Elementary School; Carroll W. Newberry was appointed to fill the post at Madrona School; and Edwin Raphael was selected to be vice-principal of Anza School.

Reassigned were Cyril J. Levine, who will be transferred from Victor School to Meadow Park School, and Cecil R. Paschall, who will leave his post at Seaside School to fill a vacancy at Hickory School.

Local Units to Parade ---

Members of the Torrance Area Youth Band under the direction of Jim Davidson, the Los Caballeros Youth Band, the Torrance Mounted Police, and Charleen Foythe riding her Palomino, Sugar Tip, will be among the entrants in the annual Hawthorne Kiwanis Parade tomorrow. The parade will begin at 6 p.m. at 120th and Hawthorne Boulevard. It will be taped for 4 p.m. Sunday television showing.

Murder Suspect Held ---

A 24-year-old man has been arrested as a suspect in the murder of 21-year-old Linda Nelms, whose body was found in a Harbor City lot Friday. Arrested was Willie Lee Owens, who lives at 11721 S. New Hampshire Ave., north of Gardena. The Nelms woman had been dead several days when her body was found by a passerby, police reported. She had been severely beaten about the head.

Police Academy Studied ---

Preparation of a "background paper" on the possibility of establishing a police training academy in cooperation with southwestern area cities has been approved by the City Council. City Manager Edward J. Ferraro told councilmen the paper would be used during discussions on a possible academy by the South Bay City Managers Association. Heavy enrollments at the Los Angeles Sheriff's Academy and increased need for police training in the area are prime considerations in the matter, Ferraro said.