

Controversial Land Zoning Delayed

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, Volume III, No. 2



3238 Sepulveda Blvd., Torrance, California — Wednesday, July 6, 1966

10c Per Copy By Carrier 50c Per Month By Mail \$12 Per Year

82 Pages



PLAN RANCHERO DAYS . . . One of the first duties of Chamber of Commerce President Don Hyde (center) after assuming office July 1 was to begin thinking about the annual Ranchero Days Rodeo scheduled this year for Aug. 13 and 14. Here he tries Western hat on Pat Gaynor while Don Lemen, Torrance Elks, and Gus Cochran, Torrance Mounted Police, check the action. They approved. (Press-Herald Photo)

Ban All Fireworks in City, Chief Suggests

Review Of Case Awaited

Torrance Councilmen again have delayed a final decision on the fate of 100 acres of land in South-Central Torrance — but this time the council is waiting for some directions from City Attorney Stanley Remelmeyer.

Remelmeyer will review the case this week and advise the council on a proper course of action next Tuesday.

At issue is land owned by Don Wilson and by Dan E. Butcher. Butcher has proposed the development of a cemetery on his 54-acre parcel—a proposal which the council turned down. Wilson has indicated he wants to develop his parcel for housing.

The entire parcel currently is zoned for industrial uses.

COUNCILMEN sent the matter to a special committee May 10 after a lengthy discussion. That committee recommended, by a 2-1 vote, that the case be approved—but just exactly what plan of development the committee recommended for approval wasn't made clear.

Remelmeyer told councilmen they may have lost jurisdiction in the case and asked that action be withheld until he could research the matter. He suggested that the entire matter might have to go back to the city's Planning Commission.

"They (the commissioners) have indicated they don't want to see it again," David K. Lyman remarked. Lyman said the committee felt it was better for the council to act since the matter has been heard by the Planning Commission "four or five times."

MAYOR Albert Isen said he felt further public hearings are necessary. "This poses some very important public problems," Isen said, "and I am not going to be a party to pushing anything over in the absence of people who are interested."

"The people have been heard," Ross A. Sciarrotta Sr. said. "We've held a million and one hearings on this." Sciarrotta indicated he would favor settling the issue next week "if it is legal."

Councilmen instructed Remelmeyer to study the matter and report to them next Tuesday. Isen stressed that no action would be taken at next week's meeting. Instead, the council will determine what to do next, then schedule hearings if they are required.

IN OTHER ACTION last night, the council:

- Approved C-3 zoning for a large vacant parcel at the northeast corner of Hawthorne Boulevard and 230th Street. The property is subject to a precise plan of development and no access will be granted to Samuel Street adjacent to the eastern property.

(Continued on Page A-2)

Firemen Spend 19,500 Hours On 67 Blazes

Fire Chief J. J. Benner in the Riviera section of the city. The fire, which was dis-

so-called "safe and sane" fireworks in Torrance last night during a meeting of the City Council.

Benner, reporting on a total of 67 fires which were logged in Torrance during the Fourth of July celebration, said he wanted to "go on record here and now to abandon all fireworks in the future."

More than 19,550 man hours were expended by the Fire Department in fighting the 67 fires caused by fireworks, Benner said. A majority of the fires—including six residential blazes—were recorded in a four-day period following the opening of fireworks stands in the city, he told councilmen.

A DECREASE in the number of alarms was noted last Saturday, Benner said, after the city's Fire Prevention Bureau, acting under provisions of the Health and Safety Code, removed three small types of fireworks from the stands.

Chief Benner praised operators of the fireworks stands for their cooperation and indicated several groups voluntarily removed the offending items from the market when they became aware of the problem.

Culprits in the series of fires, Benner said, were three items selling for 10 and 15 cents each. One of the devices, he explained, can be converted easily into a rocket which can travel from 200 to 300 feet.

ONLY MAJOR damage recorded during the week-long siege of blazes was to a home

in the Riviera section of the city. The fire, which was discovered about 2:30 p.m. last Wednesday, did \$20,000 in damage to the roof of a house at 326 Via Colusa.

On three occasions, Benner said, every available piece of fire fighting equipment and every fireman in the city was out fighting the fireworks-caused blazes. "I had a city to protect and nothing to protect it with," Benner said.

The chief said he attempted to secure additional help from three surrounding cities, but was unable to do so because they "were faced with the same situation."

MAYOR Albert Isen suggested the city might be at fault in some areas because "we've been a bit slow on our weed abatement program."

Councilmen referred Benner's report to their Police and Fire Committee, chaired by Ken Miller, and called for "a thorough study and recommendation."

A representative for one major fireworks company told the Press-Herald after the meeting his firm has taken steps to eliminate the three items blamed for the fires. He said the State Fire Marshall had been asked to investigate the matter and assist in removing the offending items from the market.

Miller said his committee would take a close look at the fireworks problem and would ask representatives of the companies to meet with the committee.

Benner also told the council the Fire Department responded to 17 other alarms and made 11 rescues during the week-long period. A total of 95 calls were recorded during the seven days.

Torrance Board Backs Up On Continuation Program

Members of the Torrance Board of Education undid some work last night after debate on a continuation high school in this city.

Trustees, by a 3-2 vote, rescinded a resolution establishing a "necessary small high school" and voted instead to offer continuation high school classes in conjunction with the adult education program during the 1966-67 school year.

The action was made possible by passage of an emergency state law permitting school districts to integrate continuation high school classes next year. The state measure was approved because some districts have had difficulty securing teachers for continuation high school classes due to a teacher shortage.

UNDER TERMS of state law, districts must offer continuation high school classes for youths 16 to 18 years of age who cannot attend regular classes because they must work. To encourage the establishment of separate continuation high schools, state aid is considerably higher than is aid for continuation classes.

Torrance trustees previously had voted to establish the small high school on a portion of the 17-acre Navy site recently turned over to the local district.

Dr. J. H. Hull, superintendent of schools, said in a report to the board that the costs of operating a small high school would be about \$92,000 next year—with the state paying \$51,000 of that. He noted that continuation high school classes integrated with the adult education program would cost nearly \$84,000—with the state paying only \$22,000.

A CAPITAL outlay of \$146,000 would be necessary to establish the separate campus, according to the report.

The net result, Mrs. Kenneth Watts noted, would be a cost of about \$186,000 in local funds this year to build and operate the separate campus, compared with some \$61,000 to offer the classes under the adult education program.

Mrs. Watts was joined by Bert M. Lynn and William J. Hanson, president of the board, in approving the adult education program. Dr. Kurt Shery and Dr. Donald E. Wilson opposed the action.

The state measure permits the continuation classes to be offered with the adult program only during the 1966-67 school year.

IN OTHER ACTION, the board:

- Approved preliminary plans for the West High Student Service Center and Administration Building.

- Scheduled meetings at each of the city's high schools next year. The board will meet Oct. 3 at South High, Nov. 21 at North High, Jan. 16, 1967, at West High, and Feb. 20, 1967, at Torrance High.

- Approved an application for some \$250,000 in federal funds to continue programs begun this year under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965. Included in the grant are funds for a mobile library, a remedial reading program, and vocational counseling services.

Ex-Torrance Businessman Dead at 53

B. Taylor Whitney, former owner of Whitney Insurance and Finance Co. of Torrance and a long prominent resident of the Torrance and Harbor areas died Tuesday at the age of 53. He was a resident at 4315 Via Frascati in San Pedro in recent years, and had lived in this area for 25 years.

A veteran of World War II, Mr. Whitney opened his company in Torrance at the end of the war. Since 1957, he has been contract manager for Green Hills Memorial Park as well as pursuing private business interests. He was a member of the San Pedro Rotary Club.

He is survived by his widow, Margaret, a former president of the Torrance Woman's Club; a daughter, Margo, of San Pedro; his mother, Mrs. B. T. Whitney, a sister, Betty Whitney, and a brother, John, all of Glendale.

Funeral services have been scheduled at McNeerney's San Pedro Mortuary at 2 p.m. Friday. Donations to the American Cancer Society have been suggested by the family. Private cremation will follow.



CELEBRATING . . . Toast of their friends today are Mr. and Mrs. Martin Drouillard, who are residents of the Royalwood Convalescent Hospital at 22520 Maple Ave. Drouillard, 75, a construction worker and ironworker from Minnesota, and his wife, the former Mattie Eason, hospital dietician from Chapel Hill, N.C., were just married. They will continue to reside at Royalwood, they report. (Press-Herald Photo)

Talbert Named To Commission

Ed Talbert, a Torrance insurance business, Talbert planning commissioner, was appointed to the Los Angeles County Human Relations Commission Tuesday by Supervisor Burton W. Chace.

Talbert, an insurance executive, and his wife, Robbie, live at 3123 Cricklewood St.

He is a member of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce, a past president of the 20-30 Club No. 3 of San Bernardino, and past exalted ruler, BPOE Elks, San Bernardino Lodge No. 836.

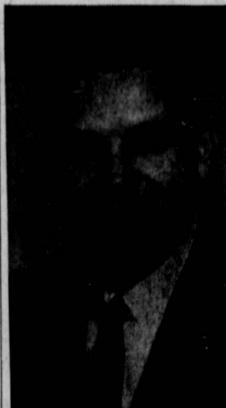
Prior to his career in the

City Will Say Thanks To Oil Firm

At least one California city is about to say "thank you" to an oil company for its efforts in improving the general appearance of service stations.

Torrance councilmen voted last night to commend the Shell Oil Co. for its leadership in improving the appearance of the stations.

H. Ted Olson suggested the action, noting that Shell has been replacing older stations with new, modern, and clean stations "without pressure from the cities."



ED TALBERT Named by Chace

Inquest Called in Shooting

A coroner's inquest into the fatal shooting of a 19-year-old Torrance youth has been scheduled for today in Kern County.

Richard Hoffman, 24620 Park Ave., died late Sunday when he was shot in the face with a 16 gauge shotgun near Lake Isabella.

Two companions of Hoffman are scheduled to testify in the inquest. They are Gary R. Bache, 19, of 20910 Anza Ave., and Sal Arguello, 20, of 4312 W. 180th St.

Bache and Arguello said the trio was camping in Kelso Valley. Hoffman and Bache were shooting at birds and playfully pointing their shotguns at each other, Arguello said, when Bache's gun discharged and struck Hoffman in the face.

Arguello said he drove to Weldon, a nearby town, to report the shooting immediately after it happened.

Radio Minister Indicted ---

The Rev. C. T. (Kelly) Walberg, who founded the Cup of Cold Water Ministry and took over the Hermosa Biltmore hotel to make it a center for the religious order, was indicted Tuesday by the Los Angeles County Grand Jury on 14 counts of violating the California corporate securities laws and one count of grand theft. Walberg and a former colleague, Wayne R. Davidson, were named in the indictment on 14 charges of selling securities without a permit from the California Division of Corporations, and one of theft of \$9,000 from a 77-year-old woman, Walberg broadcasts over a Long Beach station.

Douglas Gets Huge Order ---

The Douglas Aircraft Co. has been awarded a \$44.3-million Navy contract for the construction of A4F attack aircraft and the plane's two-seater training version called the TA4F. The contracts were announced in Washington Tuesday by Rep. Craig Hosmer, R-Long Beach. Douglas Navy contracts have been assigned to the Torrance plant in recent years.

Crash Kills Man, Son ---

A Torrance man and his son were killed Sunday in an automobile accident near Winslow, Ariz. Dead are Earl C. Harris, 65, of 1317 Amapola Ave., and Dale Ladean Harris, 39, of Orange, Calif. The elder Harris' wife, Jeannie, was reported seriously injured in the crash. The two men died at a Winslow hospital shortly after a head-on collision with another car.