

Council Blocks Closed Fire Chief Exams

Torrance

Press-Herald

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ACTIVE JAYCEES . . . Leaders of the sponsoring Torrance Junior Chamber of Commerce discuss plans for the Rancho Days carnival to be held on Del Amo Center property near Madrona and Sepulveda Aug. 3 through Aug. 7. Seated from left are Dempsey Morris and Rod Granger, co-chairmen of the event. Standing are Ron Davis, external vice president of the Jaycees; Ralph Grippio, state director; and Ron Steward, president. The annual Rancho Days rodeo will be held the following weekend, Aug. 13 and 14.

(Press-Herald Photo)

Trustees Vote 4-Cent Slice in School Taxes

No Test Ban for City Job

Efforts to limit examinations for police chief and fire chief to members of the individual departments failed last night.

At issue was an amendment to the city's Civil Service ordinance which would have eliminated the provisions which now permit qualified persons from other police or fire departments to take the examinations.

The ordinance was prepared at the request of Councilman George Vico.

THE EXISTING ordinance was adopted some 30 months ago and ended a bitter fight which had raged for several months in the city. Last night's vote was 3-4 for adoption, with J. A. Beasley and Ross A. Sciarrotta Sr. joining Vico in voting for the ordinance.

City Manager Edward J. Ferraro opposed the change and noted that a new Civil Service ordinance, expected to be presented to the council in September, calls for the Civil Service Commission to determine whether an examination shall be open or promotional.

"This is far superior," Ferraro said in a memo to the council, "in that it takes into consideration the circumstances as they exist rather than precluding all outside

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MOVING DAY . . . Mrs. Marge Harlan, a clerk in the planning and research division of the Torrance Police Department, begins the task of restoring order to her desk after moving to a new office. Mrs. Harlan and other members of the planning and research division acquired larger quarters when the records bureau was moved to the newly completed addition to the police station. She reports the division is "still cramped" despite the expansion of police facilities from 9,000 to 23,000 square feet.

Board Denies Proposal for Larger Break

Torrance school board members jumped on the tax bandwagon Monday evening and voted to cut the 1966-67 property tax rate by four cents.

Trustees acted as they adopted a publication budget of \$20.1 million for the new school year. Final action is scheduled Aug. 1, following a public hearing.

The cut in school taxes comes on the heels of a two-cent cut in the city's tax rate.

Chief reason for the reduction is a 10.4 per cent increase in the assessed valuation of the city reported by County Assessor Philip E. Watson last Wednesday.

THE BOARD, however, rejected a recommended cut of nearly six cents. Dr. J. H. Hull, superintendent of schools, had asked that the budget be balanced by spending \$560,000 from the district's \$4 million reserve.

The board, by its action, restored \$48,560 to the reserve fund. Trustees acted on motion of Bert M. Lynn, who noted the city had cut the tax rate by two cents and said he wanted "to show the taxpayers we are twice as good as our brothers at city hall."

Mrs. Kenneth E. Watts offered a substitute motion calling for a cut of .0587 cents — the figure recommended by Dr. Hull, but failed to get a second. She said she would vote for the four-cent cut "if that's the best we can get the board to do."

Dr. Donald E. Wilson was not at the meeting.

ASSISTANT Superintendent Frank Mattox, whose office prepared the budget, said the total rate — including bond payments, retirement taxes, child care center, and state school building payments—will be about \$4.3863

per \$100 assessed valuation, compared to the current \$4.263 per \$100.

Mattox warned, however, that the final rate could change since the local board does not set the actual tax rate. That is done by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors. Mattox also noted that initial budget estimates called for an increase of some 16 cents in taxes — resulting in a total reduction of nearly 20 cents over projected rates.

The general purpose tax rate — that portion of the total rate over which the local board has control — is estimated at \$3.0320. The 1965-66 rate was \$3.0633.

THE REMAINDER of the four-cent cut is made up of slight reductions in the retirement tax, the state school building tax, and the school bond tax.

The publication budget adopted Monday calls for expenditures of \$20,133,144 during the year. Of that total, more than half will go for teacher's salaries.

Trustees rejected a request from the Torrance Elementary School Principals Association for a 12-month contract, noting that contribution of \$6 per month per employee already have been approved.

LYNN, IN comments directed at the principals, recalled the district had principals on a 10-month contract only two years ago. He then told the group, "Get off our backs for a while."

Trustees also were told the district's building program has been overcommitted by some \$600,000. Mattox said that money would have to be paid out of general fund monies if the district's \$9

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City Will Operate Its Own Libraries

Torrance will terminate a 35-year association with the Los Angeles County Public Library system June 30, 1968.

The city will establish an independent municipal library system on that date, following action by the City Council last night.

The council, on motion of J. A. Beasley, told City Manager Edward J. Ferraro to notify the County Board of Supervisors that city will not join the county library system when the present contract expires in 1968. Ferraro also was asked to report on the feasibility of a plan suggested by Mayor Albert Isen to provide financial support for the new city system.

issue submitted to voters early next year.

The mayor wants a two-cent tax cut approved last month rescinded and the money — about \$50,000 — added to a \$65,000 reserve now in the city's own library fund. He also wants \$50,000 in revenues which the city will collect during fiscal 1966-67 added to the total.

Isen also said additional savings could be found in the 1967-68 and 1968-69 budgets to bring the total to \$515,000 in the two-year period. Such a sum could provide books adequate to maintain the current library service level, he said.

A DECISION on whether to build a new main library at city center would be left up to the people through the bond issue, Isen said. The mayor said a tax rate of about four cents would be necessary to retire \$2 million in bonds. He believes city

taxes can be adjusted to provide for retirement of the bonds without increasing taxes

Councilmen generally agreed to Isen's proposal, but held up action to restore the two-cent tax cut pending a report from Ferraro's office. Ferraro will report in about 45 days.

The council will set the city

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Vandals Hit City Schools

Eighteen schools, the Child Care Center, and a school bus were damaged by vandals during the final three months of 1965-66 school year, the Board of Education was told Monday.

More than 50 windows were broken, six windows were shot out with BB pellets, and four door glasses broken, the report showed. Total cost of repairs was \$588.24, including the repair or replacement of a variety of smaller items.

Theft during the quarter resulted in the loss of \$788.99 the board was told. Two tape recorders, an adding machine, 10 microphones, a record player, and a radio were among the items stolen.

Also reported stolen were three pounds of wieners, five pounds of oranges, a dozen ice cream bars, and a bag of popcorn.

The school district was able to recover \$220.11. In one case, parents of a youth asked the school district to send a bill to the youth. He paid it, the board was told, out of his own money.

Wage Survey Talk Called For Monday

Torrance City Councilmen will meet in a special personnel session Monday at 7 p.m.

The meeting was called last night to hear protests on the city's wage and salary survey. Many city employees were reclassified upon completion of the survey earlier this year and some of the positions have been protested.

A special three-man committee of the council has been hearing protests since last February, but concern that some employees may not be getting a complete hearing prompted the change in procedure.

Recommendations on the cases already heard and those to be heard Monday will be made public at next Tuesday's regular meeting.

New 20-30 Club Picks Officers

Don Fullerton has been elected charter president of the new Torrance Active 20-30 Club and the chartering date has been set for Aug. 20, 1966.

Other officers elected by the new organization include Jeff Bradpiece, first vice president; Dan Ingram, second vice president; and Roy Ramirez, sergeant-at-arms. Directors are Bill Bordeaux, Cliff Hitchcock, Roger Nordella, Gene Skala, and Ron Zirlo.

Burglars Loot Residence . . .

Bold burglars who entered the Anthony Rallo home at 2603 W. 182nd St. Monday during the lunch hour ransacked every room in the house and left with loot given a total value of \$2,565 in reports filed with Torrance police. Among the items taken were three television sets, two radios, a camera, bar stools, watch, ring, toaster, and other household wares. Entry was gained by forcing a sliding glass door.

Crash Kills Ex-Tartar . . .

A two-car collision Sunday afternoon at the five-points intersection in downtown Torrance inflicted fatal injuries on Peter Armour Rucker, 20, of 1550 W. Torrance Blvd. His wife, Virginia Ann, and son, Peter Jr., were hospitalized with serious injuries. Injured in the second vehicle were Helen Mary Grajeda, of 2146 Del Amo Blvd., listed as the driver; and Marie Rodriguez, of 2113 Del Amo Blvd., a passenger. Rucker was a Torrance High School football letterman in 1962 and 1963.

Hi-Shear to Expand . . .

Ground has been broken for an 8,000 square foot shop production building at Hi-Shear Corp. to relocate the Derringer airplane project. The move will provide more manufacturing space for additional production machines and provide more floor space in Hi-Shear's main manufacturing building, according to President George Wing. The firm currently employs more than 700 at its 18-acre Torrance plant.

INSIDE YOUR

Press-Herald

Press-Herald staffer Jerry Reynolds, who recently completed a 30-day tour of Europe, writes today about an overnight stay in Hamburg, Germany, while waiting for a flight to Berlin. His report on one of the city's shocking attractions is published today on the second front page.

Adeline Daley, who observes suburban life with PTAs, kids, menus, and bargain basements, moves today to the second page of the Press-Herald's women's section. Her comments are found today on Page B-2.

Controversy over rezoning of 100 acres of land in the city, including suggestions that it be made a golf course, cemetery, or housing tract among others, is due for reconsideration again next Tuesday. The Press-Herald's lead editorial today on Page C-2 suggests it might be a good time for councilmen to go fishing.



STILL WORKING . . . Some work is still being completed at the new Torrance Police Department addition, although departments have now occupied the facility. Electrical foreman Carl Wietzorek completes work on a control panel in the jailer's office. The panel allows the jailer to control access to the security areas by pushing buttons.