City Employe 'Fringe' List Under Study

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CONTEST WINNERS . . . Mayor Albert Isen presents three $50 U.S. Savings Bonds to winners of the city's 'Design Your City Seal" and "Design Your City Flag" contests. Accepting her award is Miss Marilyn Elaine Tracy, winner of the flag contest. Winners of the seal contest are Randy Allen Boldt (at left) and Michael C. Stull. More than 200 entries were received in the contests, according to City Clerk Vernon W. Coil. The presentations were made during last night's meeting of the City Council. (Press-Herald Photo by Mike Eggers)

13-Hour Crime Spree; Torrance Clerk Held

Workers Ask for Fringes

A seven-point proposal for improved fringe benefits for Torrance city employes was referred last night to the city manager for study.

Councilmen asked that a report be submitted to a special salary survey committee of the council once the study is completed.

The proposal, advanced by the Torrance City Employes Association, Inc., seeks improved sick leave benefits, a longevity bonus, and increased health insurance contributions by the city.

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SPECIFICALLY, the employe group is asking that:

- Unused sick leave be converted to pay at one-half the regular rate when an employe terminates.
- Employes be given a 5 per cent increase in pay on completion of the 7th, 14th, and 21st years.
- Insurance contributions by the city be increased from $6.66 per employe to $9.44.
- Holiday pay be increased to time and one-half.
- The city pay the full cost of any special clothing or tools required for employment.
- Employes on industrial accident leave continues to accrue vacation and sick leave while disabled.

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THE GROUP also is asking for an "adequate" parking lot adjacent to city hall.

Jerome I. Scharfman, assistant city manager, told councilmen his office would have to study the requests to determine the cost of the program to the city. He also said several other city employe groups should be permitted to submit their own requests and that all such

(See COUNCIL on A-2)

CLEAN-UP TASK . . . The city's second semi-annual clean-up days will begin this Saturday for residents north of Torrance Boulevard and the city plans to do its share. Sanitation crews got an early start today when the city's new "vacuum cleaner" was put into action to clean out a drainage area at Torrance Boulevard and Victor Street. Pictured are (from left) Walter Nollac, director of public works; E. J. Ali and Joe Belanto, equipment operators, and John R. Atkinson, sanitation superintendent. During the event, residents may put out items not normally picked up by city crews. The area south of Torrance Boulevard will observe Clean-Up Days Saturday, Oct. 15. (Press-Herald Photo)

Escapee Taken In Showdown With Officers

Details of a 13-hour crime spree by a Torrance clerical worker who had escaped from a state prison camp are being pieced together by Long Beach police—a crime spree which police charge included attempted murder, kidnaping, and armed robbery.

Held is Robert D. Wilson, 24, who escaped from the Puerta la Cruz Conservation Camp near Warner Hot Springs. Wilson had been committed to the Adult Authority for the 1964 robbery of a taxi driver which had netted him $90.

Wilson was arrested by Long Beach police after he had allegedly exchanged shots with Sgt. Darrel Goldsmith near a bar which had just been robbed.

It was reported earlier today that the Wilson spree apparently began Sunday when the escapee forced B. M. Jurkovich, 71, a Huntington Beach auto dealer, and his weekend guests to drive him from the Jurkovich mountain cabin to Long Beach.

In Long Beach, Wilson is accused of forcing his way into the home of Phillip W. Guernsey where he held Guernsey and his wife until dawn Monday.

Police charge that Wilson later robbed a Long Beach bar and its patrons of $112 and then exchanged shots with Sergeant Goldsmith when the patrol sergeant stopped the car Wilson was driving.

Formal complaints of attempted murder, kidnapping, armed robbery, and felony escape are being sought against the suspect.

Industrial Progress Cited by Executive

Iudustrial development is proceeding at an accelerated rate in Torrance, according to Harry L. Weaver, chairman of the Chamber's Industrial Development Committee.

During the period June-August the valuation of Building permits for industrial construction amounted to $4,679,830 out of a total valuation of $7,781,690.

In the same period $857,555 was being spent for new commercial construction, $797,870 for additions and alterations to commercial, industrial, and public buildings, and $669,870 for residential structures.

THE LARGEST of the permits issued since June went to Potomac Realty Corp. of Los Angeles with a value of $2,629,700 for a research-development manufacturing building adjacent to Torrance Municipal Airport. The intended tenant is the Microwave Tube Division of Hughes Aircraft Co.

Among the larger industrial and commercial projects applied for in June were Deft, Inc., $62,000 for a building addition; Los Angeles Construction Co., Inc., $50,230 for a manufacturing facility; and Magnavox Research Laboratories, $81,000 for air conditioning and sprinkling systems.

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IN JULY the leaders were Broadway Del Amo, $35,000 for store improvement; Del Amo Properties, $66,100 for a parking garage foundation; Denny's Restaurant, $85,000; I. Magnin Co. $200,000; Pacific Smelting Co., $36,000; and Sealfon-Monitz, $39,180 for a car wash facility.

A score of major projects were begun in August, including AiResearch Manufacturing Corp., $40,000 for a plant addition; Newton-Pacific Co., $116,040 for retail stores; Norm's Restaurant, $80,000; Radion Corp., $86,400 for a manufacturing facility; Standard Brands Paint Co., $910,000 for a new warehouse at the plant; Toyota Motor Sales, $495,000 for warehouses and offices; Tridair Industries,

(See INDUSTRY on A-2)

Anti-Dump Meet Called

Residents of the Walteria and Victoria Knolls areas of Torrance will meet at 7:30 this evening in the cafeteria at South High School to discuss a proposed rubbish dump in the area. Notices of the meeting were distributed to residents of the two areas Sunday.

The meeting has been called to update the residents on the current battle against the proposed dump, the Press-Herald was told.

Council Backs Test Of Proposition 14

Efforts of the California Real Estate Association (CREA) to overturn a State Supreme Court decision which has held Proposition 14 unconstitutional were endorsed by the Torrance City Council last night.

Mayor Albert Isen offered the resolution, which was adopted without debate by unanimous vote of the council during a brief session.

Proposition 14, which repealed the Rumford Act approved by the State Legislature, was adopted as a constitutional amendment by a 2-to-1 margin in the 1964 general election. It subsequently was declared unconstitutional by the State Supreme Court.

The CREA currently is seeking a rehearing on the decision before the high court and has pledged itself to seek further judicial review if the high court refuses the CREA petition.

Declaring that Proposition 14 represents the consensus of the citizens throughout the state, the resolution pledges this city's suppoort of the CREA's "effort to hold property rights inviolate" and to the current effort to get a new hearing before the State Supreme Court.

Junior Citizen's Day Set

Students participating in the city's annual Junior Citizen's Day this year won't have to wait until midnight to do their homework.

Some changes will be made in the annual event, scheduled for Tuesday, Nov. 29, this year. And its all calculated to get the youths home a little bit earlier.

Students traditionally have participated in an 8 o'clock council meeting so they could be guests at a dinner early in the evening. Since everything on the council agenda has to be done twice — once by the students and once, for the record, by the elected council — proceedings sometimes have gotten a bit out of hand.

This year, the event will get under way at noon with a luncheon gathering, followed by the afternoon tours and briefings. Then, students will attend a 5:30 council meeting.

If all goes well, the youths should be home and working on the class assignments by 8 p.m.

FIRST IN THE NATION

Skills Center Wins Board Approval

Initial steps to establish a Regional Occupational Skills Center here were taken by the Torrance Board of Education Monday night as trustees approved an agreement for operation of the center.

Torrance is the first school district to approve the multi-district agreement which will govern the operation of the center.

Six other school districts are expected to act on the proposal within the next few weeks, according to Wilbur Lorbeer, planning director for the center.

Lorbeer is working under a $92,000 grant to plan the curriculum program and supervise preparation of plans for construction of the regional facility. It will be built on a 10-acre parcel of land owned by the Torrance school district and located near Crenshaw and Sepulveda boulevards.

Under terms of the agreement, each of the seven participating districts will name one member to a seven-man board which will oversee the center. The program will be financed by the seven school districts, with each district paying a percentage of costs.

Individual percentages will be determined by the ratio of the assessed valuation of the local district to the assessed valuation of the combined multi-district area. Under the current proposal, Torrance will pick up the bill for 21.1 per cent of the costs.

Districts involved in the regional center include Culver City, El Segundo, Inglewood, Palos Verdes, and Torrance Unified School Districts and the Centinela Valley, and South Bay Union High School District.

A tax of up to 15 cents per $100 assessed valuation may be levied in each of the seven school districts to finance the program. Part of the tax revenues will be used for construction of the facility. Lorbeer told the Torrance Board Monday that up to 50 per cent of the construction funds may be available through federal programs. In addition, he said, industrial firms in this area and several private foundations have indicated they will assist thorugh special programs and donation of equipment to the center.

Lorbeer said tentative plans call for the center to begin classes next September, with instruction in computer training to begin first. Goal of the center is to provide occupational training for high school students so they may secure jobs upon graduation.

Courses will be specialized and every effort will be made to avoid duplicating courses offered in area high schools and colleges, Lorbeer told the board.

Several occupational skills centers have been developed throughout the nation, Lorbeer told the Torrance board, but all are being managed by single school districts. The agreement approved Monday is the first of its kind in the nation, he explained.

Lorbeer said industrial and labor leaders from throughout the area are enthusiastic about the new center and have offered to cooperate in planning and operating the facility. An advisory committee will be formed to assist in planning curriculum and to keep courses current once the center is in operation.

Eleventh and twelfth grade students from the seven districts will be eligible to attend the center. They will spend about half the school day at the facility and return to their individual high schools for academic classes.

The Culver City Board of Education will consider the agreement next Monday, Lorbeer said. The Palos Verdes Board of Education will discuss the proposal at their next regular meeting.

The agreement is subject to approval by the U. S. Office of Education, Lorbeer said.

Clouds, Mist Get Crash Blame - - -

Low-lying clouds and mist were blamed by investigators for the crash of a Torrance-bound twin-engine plane that killed an elderly San Pedro businessman and his wife Sunday night in the Santa Monica mountains. Poor weather conditions which obscured the hills in Topanga canyon caused the plane piloted by George Leland Messall, 74, owner of a San Pedro machine shop, to slam into a ridge near Malibu. Messall and his wife, Lula Juanita, 73, resided in the Muraleste section. The couple had been visiting in Palm Desert and were returning to Torrance Airport when the crash occurred.

Young Mother Succumbs - - -

Mrs. Elizabeth B. Odom, 22-year-old mother of two who lived at 21012 Shearer Ave., died in Harbor General Hospital Monday as the result of injuries she received Sept. 17 in the crash of a motorcycle she was riding with her husband, Thomas, 25. The Odom cycle was forced off Shearer Avenue near Torrance Boulevard by an auto which is still being sought by police. Mrs. Adom leaves her husband, a son, Thomas James, and a daughter, Elizabeth Marie

Bandit Robs Torrance Bank - - -

A 30-year-old bandit who warned teller Pat Caprine that he would start shooting unless she handed over her money, robbed the Sepulveda-Hawthorne branch of Bank of America of $414 Monday noon. Mrs. Caprine told investigators that the bandit told her he was carrying a gun and that he was an addict. "I mean business," he told her. She said the bandit was about 6 feet tall and had dark hair.