

# Teen Boys Terrorize Two Families in City

Torrance

## Press-Herald

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**VOLUNTEER HONORED** . . . Mrs. Clara Tittle, a volunteer at Riviera Community Hospital, accepts a large silver bowl presented to her Monday for more than 1,500 hours of service in less than four years. The presentation was made at a surprise party by B. B. (Bob) Maher, a member of the hospital's board of trustees. (Press-Herald Photo)

# Special Vote Ordered On City's Renewal Bid

## No Date Set for Election

By NATALIE HALL  
Press-Herald Staff Writer

The Active Citizens of Torrance last night won the first round in their fight to repeal the local Uniform Housing Code and disband the Torrance Redevelopment Agency.

The City Council voted to place the measures on a special ballot in view of two petitions circulated by ACT requesting a municipal vote. Date for the election will be set at the next City Council meeting, Oct. 31.

The two measures are aimed at halting the Meadow Park Redevelopment Project, which would clear some 56 acres of land west of the Torrance Municipal Airport for an industrial park. Federal funds have already been allotted for the Meadow Park Project. Those opposed to the project are against the use of federal money in local government activities.

THE NOISY band of protesters, some 40 strong, who attended the council meeting punctuated the proceedings with boos, cat calls, shouted comments from the floor, and bursts of applause for their own spokesmen.

At the height of the commotion, Mayor Albert Isen called repeatedly for order as dissident members of the audience demanded the floor. One man, ruled out of order by the mayor, was threatened with physical eviction from the council chambers before he would yield to recognized speakers.

At the beginning of the meeting, two uniformed policemen were stationed at the rear of the chamber, but Mayor Isen asked them to leave, stating that he didn't want them there. (See VOTE, Page A-2)

## New Study of City Golf Site Planned

The purchase of a 58-acre site south of 235th Street for a golf course will be studied by Torrance city fathers.

The City Council voted last night to hire a specialist to determine the financial feasibility of obtaining the parcel from Dan E. Butcher, owner. Councilman David K. Lyman said the city will have clear title to the property in 25 to 30 years. "We may not have another chance to get such a large chunk of land," he said.

Butcher is interested in selling the land at a fair market value established by appraisal. A study by the city finance department indicates the outright purchase of the land and the operation of the golf course by the city appears economically feasible with little or no general fund contribution.

into the financial feasibility of establishing a public information program in Torrance to try to keep the people in closer touch with the activities of city officials.

Councilman David K. Lyman suggested the measure, stating the Recreation Department was the only branch of Torrance government which has done a good job of public relations.

A good public information program, Councilman Ed Talbert added, might help to prevent chaotic council debates such as that experienced earlier in the evening when a band of Torrance citizens harassed councilmen and demanded the floor during the redevelopment hearing.

Mayor Albert Isen cast the only dissenting vote, saying that he felt the cost of the program would be prohibitive.

Councilman George Vico was not present.

LOS ANGELES Police Chief Tom Reddin will be principal speaker at the 1967 Junior Citizens' Day in Torrance, it was announced at last night's City Council meeting. The event is scheduled for Nov. 28.

Mayor Isen said that the city should be honored by Reddin's acceptance, noting that a more "distinguished" person could not be found to influence the youth of Torrance.

George Lewis, president of the Citizens' Advisory Council, told city councilmen last night that his council should have a representative from the Del Amo district. The City Council will consider the possibility.

## Arrest Seven Youths

A gang of teenaged ruffians terrorized two Torrance families Sunday night before police arrived and rounded up seven of the boys.

Anthony Chirello, 3920 Pacific Coast Highway, Apt. A, told police he heard a commotion outside his duplex home about 9 p.m. He went out to investigate and was confronted with the gang of boys carrying iron pipes, sticks and thongs.

The gang was shouting obscenities and violent threats against Chirello and his neighbors, the Richard Haldi family, who share the duplex, police were told.

After trying to coax the boys into leaving, Haldi drew a gun on them and told them to hold still. Mrs. Chirello called Torrance police.

Several of the boys ran away when they saw the gun but returned with rocks and began to bombard Haldi, his wife, and two children, from behind an adjacent wall. One rock hit Mrs. Haldi in the chest, causing her severe pain.

When Torrance police arrived on the scene, they arrested Danny Vladimir, 19, of 24233 Madison Ave.; Duane Cree, 22, of 745 Loma Drive, Hermosa Beach; Bruce Rovie, 18, of 24253 Ward St.; Philip Holst, 18, of 24222 Nece Ave.; Fred Hansen, 18, of 23124 Doris Way; Joe Khan, 16, of 23432 Orchard Ave., Wilmington, and Louis Reyes, 17, of 24220 Adolph.

All were charged with assault except for Khan and Reyes, who were turned over to juvenile authorities.

## Meeting Set

Members of the city's Charter Review Committee are scheduled to meet tomorrow at 7:30 p.m.



**NEW LANGUAGE** . . . Learning English is a very special experience for Jesus Ramirez, (left) and Carmen Quevada, students at Torrance Elementary School. Jesus and Carmen are among 13 Torrance Elementary students who recently arrived in this country and speak Spanish as their native tongue. A special class has been set up at the school to enable the youngsters to study English as a second language.

## Latin American Children Get Extra Language Help

"Hello, Josephine. How are you?"  
"Arturo, go to the door."  
"Andres, open the book."  
"Vivian, look at the blackboard."

Sound like a typical schoolroom? Schoolroom, yes. But the particular classroom and the students involved when the above conversation took place were anything but typical.

The time was Wednesday and the place was Torrance Elementary School. The occasion marked the second day of class for 13 non-English speaking students.

Early this fall as students began to enroll at the school, principal Stanley Roberts noticed a new trend. More and more of the newcomers had never spoken English before.

Most of the new arrivals were from Mexico. When a couple of Cuban youngsters and a student from Peru joined their ranks, Roberts found himself with a baker's dozen of Spanish-speaking youngsters.

Deciding to follow the lead of the high schools, which this year instituted a course in English as a Second Language, Roberts asked Mrs. Ernestine Maes, a second grade teacher, if she would teach a similar class from 2:10 p.m. to 3:10 p.m. every after noon.

MRS. MAES, who had spent her high school years in Albuquerque tutoring classmates from south of the border in English, responded enthusiastically.

Digging up the curriculum she had used as an upper-grade teacher two years ago to teach Spanish to Torrance Elementary seventh and eighth graders, she drew up plans to reverse the content of the course.

Results were immediate. Within 24 hours Josephine, Arturo, Andres, Vivian, and their companions were opening books, going to doors, looking at blackboards, and pointing out windows.

What lies ahead? According to Roberts, class will continue as long as it's needed. When students no longer need the extra help to understand what is being taught in their regular class, they will no longer attend. But as long as they need a boost with their English, they will continue to receive it.

## Deputy Sheriff Robbed

Five guns and ammunition, valued at \$400, were stolen yesterday from the home of Deputy Sheriff Edwin H. Sampson, 1960 W. 187th Place. Burglars apparently entered through an unlocked door some time between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. walking off with a Winchester carbine, a 12 gauge shotgun, a military carbine, an automatic shot gun, and a .45-caliber pistol. Also missing was a man's diamond ring, valued at \$900 and \$50 worth of dimes. No suspects have been apprehended.

## Hospital Plans Approved

The Torrance Planning Commission Monday voted to approve a precise plan of development for the new Torrance Memorial Hospital and an adjacent medical center development. Site of the new hospital is near Hawthorne and Lomita boulevards. Commissioners voted to recommend to the City Council that precise plans for the Torrance Memorial Hospital and the Tormed complex be approved as submitted and that the land use zone be changed from M-2 (manufacturing) to C-3 (commercial). Councilmen are expected to get the recommendations in about 30 days.

## Gunshots Kill Lomita Girl

A 19-year-old Redondo Beach youth was booked on suspicion of murder Tuesday after a 14-year-old girl was shot to death. Henry Lloyd Pace, of 2012 Marshall Field Lane, told police he was showing a .22-caliber revolver to Josephine A. Wright, of 25861 Appian Way, Lomita, and believed the gun to be unloaded. The girl was struck in the right temple when he pulled the trigger, it was reported.

IN FURTHER action, the City Council voted to look

## Airplane Crashes In Field

A student pilot and his teacher escaped injury Saturday when their Piper Cherokee made a forced landing in a Torrance field.

Instructor Richard Stowell, 8850 Cattaraugus St., Los Angeles, told authorities that he and his student were on a local training flight out of Hawthorne Airport when the plane suddenly lost power.

Student pilot Francis Stephenson, 1422 S. Curson Ave., Los Angeles, was at the controls when the accident occurred at 5:30 p.m.

The airplane sustained extensive damage to both wings, rudder and propeller when it touched down in an open field near Maple Avenue and Sepulveda Boulevard.

## BEFORE PLANNING COMMISSION

## Debate on Sign Law Continues

Action on a proposed new sign ordinance for Torrance was delayed Monday until at least Nov. 16 by the city's Planning Commission.

Commissioners heard merchants air complaints against an ordinance which was drafted by the city's Planning Department.

Merchants called the ordinance "too restrictive" and suggested that it might "kill the golden goose" if adopted by the city.

Leo Salisbury, himself a former planning commissioner and the chairman of the Torrance Merchant's Sign Committee, said the proposed city ordinance was most severely at the small businessmen and merchants, which he said are the "backbone of the community."

The Torrance Merchant's Sign Committee was organized earlier this year after it was pointed out in a series of articles in the Press-Herald that

the city's ordinance — as then drafted — would virtually require the removal of most signs now up in the city.

Several modifications have been made in the ordinance since that time, but merchants contend it is still too restrictive.

Pointing to an ordinance adopted by Redondo Beach, James Armstrong told merchants, "I don't think our proposal is overly restrictive." Armstrong said the Redondo Beach ordinance is "much more restrictive."

Armstrong did, however, say he liked several parts of the merchant's proposal.

Planning Commission President David Halstead also said he favored the planning department's proposal — with the exception of three points. Specifically singled out by Halstead for criticism were sections dealing with height restrictions, appeals to the city council, and time for

abatement of offending signs.

The newest member of the commission, Mrs. Velma Shelbourn, suggested that approval of the ordinance proposed by the merchant's group would start competition among the merchants "to see who can buy the biggest sign."

"Our ordinance isn't going to hurt as much as the merchant's," she declared.

A spokesman for the Southern California Electric Sign Association told the commission that beautification doesn't mean that signs must be eliminated.

He suggested that "proper planning" was the answer and added that some cities suffered losses of commercial developments when they became too restrictive in adopting sign laws.

Planning Commissioners agreed to take up the matter again when they convene Nov. 15.