

# Dancing to the Piper--A Warning Restated

"They whistle, we dance," the *Press-Herald* commented editorially last Sept. 14 after the still raging controversy over forced inspection of homes had been in progress for nearly a month. The comments are as appropriate today as then. The editorial, first published nearly five months ago under the heading, "Dancing to the Piper," is reprinted today as a reminder to those who still think Washington money is free.

A number of gentle-sounding words and phrases have been used to describe it, but there is no disguising the fact that with federal money goes federal control. There are absolutely no exceptions.

We have pointed out repeatedly the built-in dangers of running, hands out, to the federal bureaucrats to solve each little problem on the local level. It is surely converting local political areas into administrative zones of the supergovernment in Washington.

While a few have conceded that our fears have

an academic logic, the ardent centralists among us see nothing wrong with accepting federal hand-outs on an ever-increasing scale.

Several recent events demonstrate clearly the long arm of the bureaucrat is never far away once a city or any other political subdivision begins to knuckle under. It is sometimes referred to as following "federal guidelines," being "consistent with federal policy," or "conforming to federal procedures."

All the nice phrases mean only one thing: They whistle, we dance.

Early last month (August), we reported how the federal government had banned the sale of candy and popcorn during lunch periods and recess at our high schools.

The federal government didn't hand down a direct edict to the principals and say the popcorn sales had to go. The word was passed down through the State Board of Education as administrators of

the National School Lunch Program. Torrance could comply or lose the \$90,000-plus it receives as a lunch program subsidy each year.

In this case, the students are forced to give up \$25,000 or so earned each year on such sales in return for the \$90,000 in taxpayers' subsidy through the Washington pipeline. Who knows what next will have to be sacrificed on the altar of centralism.

The City of Torrance is experiencing a similar fate in its efforts to obtain federal approval of the Meadow Park Urban Renewal Project. The city has learned that it must have and enforce an acceptable housing code throughout all of the city before the feds will act on the Urban Renewal application. That provision has stirred up a controversy in recent weeks because of the implication that the city's inspectors would be entering homes of the residents to check for building code compliance.

The residents have been assured that the city has no intention of having its inspectors force their

way into our homes. If we don't invite them in to snoop around, the city will have to get a court order for the entry, a procedure which could delay the inspection the better part of a day. Without the enforcement, the federal funds would be denied.

The examples are as long as the list of federally aided projects. Wherever the federal government sets up a program to return some of the tax money taken from the pockets of Torrance area families, it will send along the "guidelines" which will assure conformity to the federal edicts. There is no escaping it. In the case of the housing code enforcement, every family in Torrance will feel directly the application of the city's efforts to "be consistent with federal policy."

Federal assistance may be a blessing for those feeding at the public trough, but it's a luxury that can be ill-afforded by the families that are called on to pay the tab.

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### TO CALL US

Circulation Office ..... DA 5-1515  
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### INSIDE TODAY

Ann Landers ..... C-1 Obituaries ..... A-2  
Count Marco ..... C-1 Sports ..... D-1  
Editorials ..... C-2 Women's News ..... B-1  
Television ..... B-7 Want Ads ..... D-3

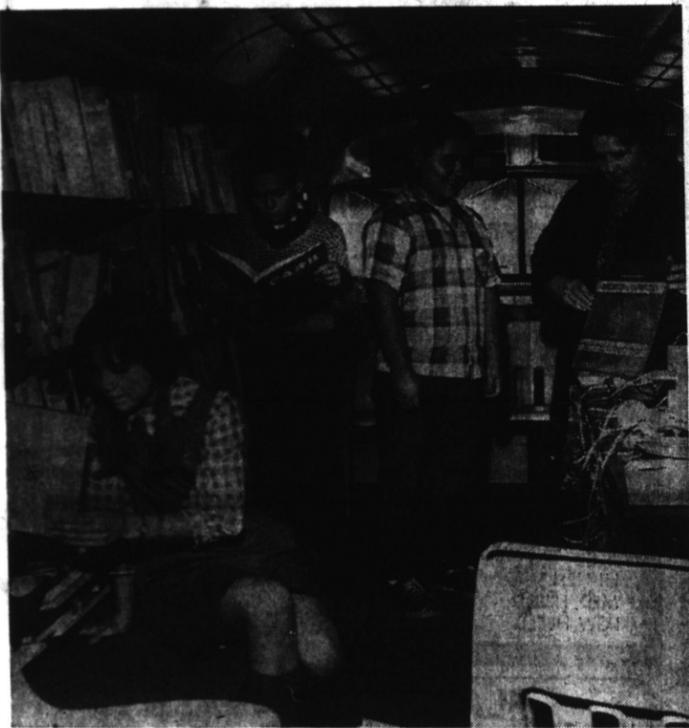
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**TRIAL RUN . . .** One of three mediamobiles soon to be placed in regular service by the Torrance schools visits Crenshaw School during a trial run. The roaming libraries, dubbed "blue geese" by school officials, will visit selected public and parochial schools to provide enrichment materials for students. Mrs. Mary Balow (at right), librarian and driver for one of the "blue geese," shows a record to Danny Hirato, 10, while Debbie Doten (at left), 11, and Howard Wells, 10, look at some of the books. (Press-Herald Photo)

### MEDIAMOBILES

## Area Schools Get Three 'Blue Geese'

Three blue geese will begin visiting Torrance area schools within the next couple of weeks.

The "blue geese" are libraries — on wheels — which will give school youngsters a chance to use not only books, but records, films, and tapes. Known officially as mediamobiles, the roaming libraries are the first in the nation to

permit youngsters to check out materials.

The project is financed with federal funds and will serve selected students at six public schools and three parochial schools, as well as children enrolled in Operation Head Start classes in the city.

The mediamobiles were dubbed "blue geese" by John Lankford, a school consultant who is in charge of the project. They resemble three windowless blue busses on the outside — but inside they are a combination classroom and bookmobile.

They will call at the Carr, Crenshaw, Fern-Greenwood, Magruder, Wood, and Torrance elementary schools and at St. Catherine Labour, St. James Annex, and Nativity schools.

A library clerk, doubling as bus driver, will serve the youngsters, who will visit the facility in groups of eight for 30 minutes at a time. Some 80 students will use each mediamobile during a day, Lankford said.

"WHAT THEY do while they're aboard will depend on the teacher," Lankford

said. "If she feels there's a good educational television program scheduled, then they will watch television. If she wishes to show them a movie, then that will be their activity. Or she might want them to select books, filmstrips, or records. In that case, that's what they'll do that day."

The blue geese are equipped to handle all of these activities. Lining one wall of each vehicle are angled bookshelves with which they came equipped.

The other wall, which was designed by Lankford and Roderick McDaniels, administrator of the Torrance Unified School District's Educational Materials Building, houses audio-visual equipment on shelves and cabinets built locally by school district carpenters.

The built-ins include a drop-leaf table which may be opened by students for viewing, listening, or reading, a storage closet for brooms and stack chairs, and a running electric outlet for plugging in earphones or projectors.

Each unit will carry more than 1,000 book titles and 400 (See SCHOOLS, Page A-2)

## Charter Group Named

Somewhere in Torrance there are seven people who have been appointed to a committee which will spearhead a thorough study of the city's charter.

But most of them probably don't know of their appointments — at least not yet.

As a result, their names won't be made public until next Tuesday when the city council convenes.

COUNCILMEN selected the seven persons — who must now get together and increase their number to 21 — at a personnel session prior to last night's regular council session.

But some of the councilmen asked that no names be announced so they could confirm their appointments with their appointees.

AS A RESULT, names will be announced by City Manager Edward J. Ferraro next week. The seven-man group will then meet and select fourteen other persons to serve on the committee. At least five of the seven must agree on each of the additional members.

The complex system of selecting a committee was devised by the council to remove political pressures which might influence a study of the charter.

IN OTHER action last night, councilmen:

- Appropriated a total of \$7,000 to provide a temporary roadway to the Joslyn Recreation Center, as well as a parking lot for 25 cars at the center, and to pave sections of a new civic center parking lot.

- Referred to the council public buildings committee a proposal to hire an architect to develop a master plan for the city hall complex on the civic center.

## Burglary Suspects Arrested

Two 18-year-olds were arrested on charges of carrying a concealed weapon and suspicion of burglary early today when they were spotted walking near the downtown area.

Benjamin Robert Helfenstein, 21104 Normandie Ave., and Lonnie Dee Henderson, 24111 Avalon Blvd., were booked at the Torrance City Jail about 3:15 a.m.

Police said Henderson was carrying a .38-caliber gun and Helfenstein was carrying a .32-caliber revolver. Both guns reportedly were loaded.

Three burglaries have occurred in the area in recent weeks, officers said.

# Junket Requests Get Second Look



**GRAND MARSHAL . . .** Ken Berry, who plays Capt. Parmenter in the ABC television series "F. Troop," will be the grand marshal of Saturday's fifth annual Boy Scout Commemoration parade. Some 50,000 persons are expected to witness the parade, the largest of its kind in the nation.

## Parade to Honor Area Boy Scouts

Some 50,000 persons are expected along Torrance Boulevard Saturday for the fifth annual Boy Scout Commemoration parade. Some 50,000 persons are expected to witness the parade, the largest of its kind in the nation.

The parade will be staged by the South Bay District of the Los Angeles Area Council. The parade is the largest in the nation during Boy Scout Week.

Ken Berry, who plays Capt. Parmenter in the ABC television comedy series "F. Troop," will be grand marshal. More than 4,000 persons will be in the line of march — including nearly 100 Boy Scout units, 18 high school and military bands, and numerous drill teams and floats.

The parade will move from El Prado and Cravens Avenue at 10:30 a.m. and proceed west along Torrance Boulevard to Madrona Avenue, where the column will turn north. The main viewing route will be along Torrance Boulevard.

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## Council Delays Trips to Texas

By JERRY REYNOLDS Press-Herald City Editor  
Torrance councilmen last night ordered their own finance committee to take a second look at the city's policy toward traveling officials — including their own occasional wanderings.

The action came on motion of Mayor Albert Isen as the council considered a request to permit two members of the Planning Commission and planning director Charles M. Shurtle to go to Houston, Tex., in April.

Isen, declaring that "some austerity programs are going to be necessary," said such a trip would cost the city about \$1,500. "This is a good place to start," he added.

HE SAID he did not remember that any members of the Planning Commission had attended recent sessions of the League of California Cities and added, "The minute we go out of state, the attraction is there."

"It is a matter of values," Isen declared. Citing the decision of the council to set up its own municipal library system and a forthcoming library bond election, he said "it is a matter of measuring needs and applying the money were it can best be used."

HE SAID he would "forego" attendance at the Honolulu, Hawaii, meeting of the United States Conference of Mayors this spring and suggested that other traveling also might be curtailed.

COUNCILMEN adopted a policy statement on Feb. 9, 1965, which sets forth the rules for travel by members of the city's several advisory commissions. The policy permits two members of the Planning Commission and the Civil Service Commission to attend one conference each year. Other commissions may send only one delegate to a meeting.

The policy statement, however, makes no mention of rules which might apply to councilmen.

But, the mayor said, "Just because a policy is announced is no reason why it cannot be changed."

HIS MOTION to delay action on the proposed trip to Houston for 30 days won unanimous support—but not until Councilman Ken Miller made it plain he wants the study to include the council's own wanderings.

"I am not going to sit in judgment of the Planning Commission, or any commission," Miller declared, "unless the council is going to take action on its own doings."

"Maybe we're going to establish a new program?" he asked.

ISEN QUICKLY said he was (See JUNKETS, Page A-3)

## Vandals Hit Classroom At Hillside

A small tree was uprooted and books scattered about a classroom by vandals who broke into the Hillside Elementary School Sunday.

Torrance police said the vandals broke a window in one of the classrooms and scattered books and other items about the room. A model ship in the classroom also was broken.

Pencils and other school supplies may have been taken, police said. A school custodian, John F. Vallino, called police after he discovered the broken window about 10 a.m. Sunday.

## YMCA Drive Opens Today

The Torrance Family YMCA will launch its 1967 sustaining membership drive today under the leadership of Marshall Stewart, it has been announced by Dr. Rollin E. Smith, chairman of the YMCA board. Stewart, vice president of Stewart Film Screen Corp., will direct a force of 624 volunteers who will seek to raise \$130,000 to sustain the "Y" program during the coming year. More than 3,300 families are served by the local YMCA. Stewart noted, Section chairmen for the fund drive are Al Tripaldi, Frank Kenny, Mel Larson, and Ed Escovar.

## Victim of Explosion Dies

Clarence Russell Stillely, 56, of 18213 Crocker Ave., Gardena, died Monday morning at Harbor General Hospital of burns received Jan. 20 when methane fumes accidentally ignited while he was working in a sledge digester tank at the Los Angeles County Sanitation District Joint Water Pollution Control plant at 24501 S. Figueroa St. Injured at the same time was Stanley Taylor, 45, of 2700 Aviation Blvd., Redondo Beach, who remains in critical condition at the hospital with burns over 75 per cent of his body.