

Housing Code Inspections to Be Started

Press-Herald

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PLAN FOR THE FUTURE . . . Members of the Torrance Friends of the Library who are making plans for a reception honoring the city's newly appointed librarian, Russell J. West, check out materials to develop the theme of the reception, "Portrait of a City Library." Pictured are (from left) Mrs. Richard Kreuger, recording secretary, who is reading from Shakespeare; Mrs. Ray R. Fitting, program chairman, checking a copy of the Press-Herald; and Richard T. Hall, bond chairman, who reads to his son, Rikki, 2. The reception honoring West is scheduled for Thursday, April 6, at 7:30 p.m. (Press-Herald Photo)

Reception to Honor New City Librarian

"Portrait of a City Library" will be theme of a reception honoring the city's newly appointed librarian, Russell J. West, Thursday, April 6, at 7:30 p.m. The reception will be held in the Del Amo Room at Bullock's.

More than 700 invitations have been mailed by members of the Friends of the Torrance Library, who are in charge of arrangements for the reception and program.

Speakers at the reception will include Mrs. Dorothy H. Jamieson, who served as librarian in Torrance from 1935 until 1961; Harold N. Umbrager, senior librarian for the county now assigned to the Torrance Library; and West.

Mrs. Jamieson, daughter of Mrs. Isabel Henderson, founder of the Torrance library, will speak on a "Portrait of the

Past." Umbrager will discuss the "Portrait of the Present." West, who was administrative librarian in Riverside prior to his appointment as librarian in Torrance, will discuss a "Portrait of the Future."

Chamber music will be played throughout the evening and art and book displays by Torrance artists and authors will be featured.

Members of the Friends of the Torrance Library in charge of the program include Mrs. P. S. Huysen, invitations; Mrs. Robert Denney arrangements; Erika Muhl, art; Mrs. Lyn Shidler, books, and Mrs. Robert Leavitt, general chairman.

Four persons, including a 17-year-old Hawthorne boy, were arrested by Torrance police early yesterday on suspicion of grand theft auto.

Police made the arrests just after 1 a.m. yesterday after they were called to 16610 Ogram Ave. to investigate a possible burglary of an automobile.

Arrested were David J.

Dempsey, 18, of Lawndale; David Lee Landers, 23, of Hawthorne; John W. Carnathan, 19, of 16718 Ermanita Ave.; and the 17-year-old boy.

Officers said the trio was arrested in connection with the theft of a car belonging to George E. Petrick of 16610 Ogram Ave. Petrick met officers at the scene and told them his car had been stolen just a few minutes earlier.

Four Held For Theft

Torrance Plane Plunges Into Harbor; Two Dead

Housing Checks Resumed

Inspections of homes in the city to check compliance with the city's housing code will be resumed this week the Press-Herald was told yesterday by J. E. Scharfman, assistant city manager.

A 60-day moratorium which had been ordered by the City Council ended a week ago, and the city has scheduled the inspections to be resumed he said.

At the same time, residents of the so-called Pueblo area of homes along Del Amo Boulevard between Crenshaw and Van Ness have been offered "advisory home inspections" to be made at the resident's request.

IN A LETTER to residents, City Manager Edward J. Ferraro explained that the inspections would be made on a voluntary basis and not related to the urban renewal program which has triggered the North Torrance inspection controversy.

Resumption of inspections will be made in the neighborhood bounded by Hawthorne, Artesia, Prairie, and Redondo Beach Boulevard. Only those homes whose occupants voluntarily admit the inspection team will be checked. Scharfman stressed. He said council approval would be needed to seek court orders for the program.

A LONG waiting list of residents who have asked for the inspection is being maintained by the city, Scharfman said.

A systematic program of housing inspection is a condition of the federal government participation in the urban renewal program now being processed in the Meadow Park area adjacent to Torrance Municipal Airport.

City Council Defers Decision on Salaries

Action on salary increases for city employees was delayed by Torrance councilmen last night until April 25.

Councilmen voted to delay the matter so costs of longevity pay proposal submitted by employees could be computed. Cost of the package for the first year is estimated at \$300,000, City Manager Edward J. Ferraro said.

The council, however, asked for estimates of the cost of such a program for several years into the future.

THE PROPOSAL submitted by employees calls for a 5 per cent increase after 5, 12, and 19 years. Councilmen also asked for cost estimates for a program with similar increases after 7, 14 and 21 years.

In addition to the longevity increases, city employees also asked for a 3 per cent across-the-board increase and for full payment of health insurance premiums.

Salary increases, under council policy, would be retroactive to Jan. 1. Employee groups asked that they be

granted for an 18-month period.

COST OF the total employee package, Ferraro said, would amount to nearly \$700,000.

As a condition of the 3 per cent increase, spokesmen for four city employee associations said, the city would have to agree to work with a Joint Salary Survey conducted yearly by several local agencies, including the city and county of Los Angeles and the Los Angeles City School System.

Ferraro recommended a 3 per cent increase, some adjustments in three specific classes, and full payment of health insurance premiums. Total cost of the proposal would be \$396,000, Ferraro said.

THE CITY manager's office, however, initially recommended that no increases be granted. The recommendation made last night was the result of a compromise plan developed by the city council's Finance Committee, Ferraro said.

Spokesmen for the Torrance Police Officers Association and the Torrance Fire (See SALARIES on A-2)

Planes Crash In Air

Two area men who had flown from Torrance Municipal Airport on a training flight are missing after their light plane collided with another Tuesday afternoon and plunged into the harbor near Long Beach.

Officials were still checking to identify the victims this morning, although it was reported that a plane which had flown from Torrance airport with a Lomita man and a Palos Verdes Peninsula man had not returned. Names of the two men were not revealed.

The light single-engined plane in which the missing flyers had been flying collided with a twin-engine Cessna with the pilot and three passengers aboard. The Cessna landed safely at Long Beach airport.

Two Plead Guilty in Burglary

Two teenagers arrested March 17 in connection with the theft of some \$1,300 from a safe at North High have entered guilty pleas in South Bay Municipal Court.

Everett Theodore Vogus Jr., 18, of 3224 W. 187th St., and Ralph James Hill, also 18, of 15001 Crenshaw Blvd., each entered a plea of guilty to burglary charges before Judge Otto B. Willett Monday in South Bay Municipal Court.

The two youths have been ordered to appear in Department A of the Southwest Superior Court April 14.

Councilmen Pledge 'No Tax Increase'

Torrance councilmen put themselves on record last night that property taxes will not be increased to repay a \$2,350,000 library bond issue which voters will be asked to approve April 18.

Bond payments will be made from the city's general fund through an offsetting re-

duction in other property taxes, councilmen said.

A resolution approved unanimously by the seven councilmen said the city "intends to repay the proposed library bond indebtedness out of the city's General Fund without an increase in the existing over-all city tax rate."

THE CURRENT city tax rate is \$12,380 per \$100 assessed valuation.

Funds needed to repay the bond issue, if it wins voter approval, will be raised through a library tax increase of from 2 to 4 cents. At the same time, however, councilmen said they would reduce the general fund tax rate by an equal amount, thereby maintaining the present over-all tax rate.

The bond issue, which will require a two-thirds majority for approval, will provide funds for a new central library, for at least one new branch library, and for the purchase of books.

IN OTHER action last night, the council:

• Continued until April 25 a public hearing on a request for a zoning variance which would permit a drive-in theater near the Pacific Coast Highway and Crenshaw Boulevard.

• Referred to a special neighborhood committee a request for a change of zone from M-1 to C-R or to C-3 with a precise plan on property

located at the northeast corner of 182nd Street and Yukon Avenue.

• Ordered the city's Plan (Continued on Page A-2)

Newspaperboy Held Up ---

A 13-year-old newspaperboy who had just started out to make collections along his North Torrance route Tuesday evening was accosted by two teenagers, threatened with a chain, and finally forced to collect from a customer and then turn it over to his assailants, Torrance police were told. Charles Brewer, who said he had just begun his collection route shortly before 7 p.m. Tuesday, was not hurt. Police are questioning two older teenagers about the incident.

Call Special Meeting ---

Lomita councilmen will convene this evening for a special session to consider plans for the formation of an improvement assessment district. Mayor Joe A. Haslam has called the special session in the conference room of the Lomita City Hall, 25332 Narbonne Ave., at 7:30. The assessment district, which would be known as Lomita Improvement District No. 1, provides for the acquisition of rights-of-way, construction of curbs and gutters, and paving of Alliene Avenue. Property owners would pay for the \$31,000 project. Councilmen will be asked to set a formal public hearing for May 8, 1967.

Electronic Dealer Robbed ---

Two men who browsed around Signal Electronics at 22307 Ocean Ave. for several minutes Tuesday afternoon had more than stereo components on their mind, Manfred Borks of the firm told police shortly after the pair had departed. Borks said one of the men finally approached him and demanded money from the register. After taking the bills and forcing all employees to lie down behind the counter, the two bandits left the store and fled south on Ocean Avenue on foot. The loss was placed at approximately \$480.

Senator Murphy Wants 'Propaganda War'

By JERRY REYNOLDS

Press-Herald City Editor

Senator George Murphy Monday called for the "biggest propaganda campaign ever conducted" to explain the goals of American foreign policy in Southeast Asia.

At the same time, Senator Murphy said the time has come when the United States should change its tactics in fighting the Vietnam war.

Speaking to newsmen during a visit to TRW, Inc., in Redondo Beach, Murphy said the United States has become the special target of communists who have "taken over the big lie technique from the Nazis."

HE SAID this nation has "lost the propaganda war miserably in the last 20 years." "We have been able to sell everything else," Murphy added, "we should be able to sell belief in this nation." Murphy said the propa-

ganda campaign should start with the President telling the American people "in clear and precise terms" why American troops are fighting in Vietnam today and what the objectives of the nation's policy are.

HE ALSO called for a re-evaluation of the role of the United States Information Agency (USIA), noting the agency was not created to be a news service but to serve as the propaganda arm of the U.S. government.

The Republican senator said the nation has been fighting a limited war with hopes of bringing the enemy to the conference table. "Obviously," he said, "the time has come when we should change tactics."

Murphy said he felt the U.S. should bring its full military force to bear against the Viet Cong and the North Vietnamese. "This is one

thing the enemy will understand," he declared.

SENATOR MURPHY said he would defer to military men when it comes to making military decisions and suggested that the war might end much sooner if politicians are kept out of the decision-making process.

He did, however, suggest that the harbor at Haiphong be mined in order to close it and said that restrictions against bombing certain military targets should be lifted.

Murphy said he was not in favor of bombing population centers. "I feel we should designate certain areas as military targets," he said, "and give a warning to civilians in the areas, then take them (the targets) out."

HE SPECIFICALLY mentioned airfields and industrial complexes which have been off-limits to American bombers.

During questioning about the California political scene, Murphy said Senator Thomas Kuchel will "get exactly the same help as all other Republican incumbents" in his bid for re-election to the Senate next year.

Murphy said he would not get involved in the primary election and would support the party's nominee in the general election. Murphy is chairman of the Republican Senate Campaign Committee.

AT A SPECIAL ceremony at TRW, Inc., Murphy announced that Black Foxe School of Los Angeles has been selected to host an Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps unit beginning in September.

Selection of the Black Foxe School, Murphy said, "indicates the exceptional nature of your educational program and your interest in the Air Force aerospace education course."