

Renewal Suit Cost \$60,000, Official Says

Torrance

Press-Herald

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PRESS-HERALD WINS . . . Gene Roberts (left), display advertising manager for the Torrance Press-Herald, accepts plaque from Lt. Gov. Robert H. Finch awarded to newspaper as best among California nondailies in use of color. Presentation was made during annual awards breakfast of the California Newspaper Publishers Association held at the Century Plaza on Saturday. (UPI Newspicture) (Story on Page A-3)

Carson Picked as Name of New City

Freeway Report Issued

Construction of the final link in the Harbor Freeway, hearings on the route for the Century Freeway, and planning studies for the route of the proposed Pacific Coast Freeway are among the major projects scheduled in this area for the coming year.

Work on the Harbor Freeway link—connecting the present freeway terminus with the Vincent Thomas Bridge—is scheduled to begin this month. Work on the two-mile section is expected to cost some \$5.1 million and will be completed late next year, it was reported.

The project is being financed by the Division of Bay Toll Crossings as approach facilities for the bridge.

ALSO SCHEDULED for consideration this year is the route for portions of the Artesia-Riverside Freeway which will connect Hermosa Beach with Riverside. Construction is under way on a 9.3-mile section between Lakewood Boulevard and Buena Park, while sections of the route east of Torrance are being operated as expressway.

Hearings on the Century Freeway route also are to be held later this year. An 8.1-mile section also is to be held later this year. (See RENEWAL, Page A-3)

Pay Issue Approved By Council

Torrance councilmen did another about face last night when a proposed charter amendment to triple their salaries came up.

The council voted, 4-3, to strike from the amendment a provision which would have tied the monthly salary of councilmen to state law which sets salaries for councilmen in general law cities.

Instead, councilmen substituted a flat figure of \$300 per month for councilmen and \$450 per month for the mayor. Mayor Albert Isen and Councilmen J. A. Beasley, Ross A. Sciarrotta Sr., and Ed Talbert voted in favor of the change.

During the debate, the Torrance Police Officers' Association and the Torrance Firefighters Local 1138 endorsed the salary increase.

Voters will decide the issue at the April 9 municipal election. A similar measure was rejected by a 2-to-1 margin two years ago.

Balloting Close For City Name

Nearly 60 per cent of voters in the Carson-Dominguez area went to the polls yesterday and made it the 77th incorporated city in Los Angeles County.

The cityhood issue won by an almost 3-2 margin and voters selected the name "Carson" for the new city. Balloting on the name was close with Carson winning by 318 votes.

Five members were elected to the city's first council and a city clerk and treasurer also were elected.

ELECTED TO council were: John Marbut, Dominguez Hills resident and principal of Dominguez Elementary School in the adjoining community of Dominguez who led the council race with 4,113 votes.

John Junk, member of United Auto Workers Citizenship Council and Los Angeles County Manpower and Development Training Council. He polled 4,025 votes.

Sak Yamamoto, mobile home park owner-operator and president of the Carson Chamber of Commerce—3,919 votes.

Gil Smith, self-employed commercial artist and Harbor District Boy Scout commissioner—3,217 votes.

H. Rick Clark, consulting engineer and chairman for the incorporation petition drive—2,654 votes.

GERTRUDE Schwartz, pioneer Carson resident engaged in real estate, placed sixth among the 35 candidates with 2,572 votes and John Calas, seven times president of the Carson Chamber of Commerce was seventh with 2,002 votes.

Mrs. Marilyn Cortina, legal secretary, won the city clerk's post with 2,039 votes, defeating six other candidates. Her closest rival was Mrs. Mary Santiago with 2,010.

Mrs. Dorothy Carter, a housewife with a background as a bookkeeper handling pay-rolls and tax reports and tax consultant secretary, won the city treasurer's job with 4,018 votes in three-way battle. Aldo R. Dinero collected 3,049 and Joseph Kolano, 1,426.

THE ELECTION climaxed a 10-year fight by the area's incorporation minded residents to form their own city. Six previous attempts failed, largely because of local differences and bickering which caused industry to shy away from support. This attempt was different. Industry joined wholeheartedly with civic groups and organizations in an all out effort which refused to accept a denial by the Local Agency Formation Commission, forced a reconsideration, and went on to win.

The new city will have an area of some 15 square miles with an assessed valuation of \$166 million and a population of some 65,000. Research studies have indicated the new city can operate without projecting new taxes and end its first three years with some \$650,000 surplus funds.

IT WAS the first time the new Votomatic machine was used in the county and officials and candidates labeled it an unqualified success.

The polls closed at 7 p.m. and shortly after 11 p.m. the complete results were in. The final result would have been much earlier but for an outlying precinct where the workers apparently misunderstood instructions and held their completed ballot boxes to be picked up instead of taking them to their designated polling station.

Only one ballot was mutilated by the computer and officials said it would be patched up and put through later today.

City Moves to Block Suit Over Meadow Park Project

By NATALIE HALL, Press-Herald Staff Writer

At least \$60,000 of Torrance taxpayers' money has been needlessly squandered paying extra interest charges on cash borrowed from the federal government, it was reported Tuesday.

Lawrence P. Irwin, deputy executive director of the Torrance Redevelopment Agency, said that the \$4 million borrowed for the Meadow Park renewal project could have been borrowed much more cheaply from private financiers with federal backing.

However, Irwin said, no private leading institution would consider dealing with the city

because of the current litigation about the status of the Redevelopment Agency (RDA). A local group known as the Active Citizens of Torrance (ACT) has sought to disband RDA by placing the question on the municipal ballot. ACT hopes to block the Meadow Park project with this action.

EVEN the federal government refused for a time to release any funds to the project because it looked as though voters might dissolve RDA.

ACT is still in the process of suing the city to force the issue on the ballot, although

City Councilmen have voted to drop the question. City Attorney Stanley Remelmeier filed a motion for summary judgment Monday in Los Angeles Superior Court, hoping to block ACT's action before it goes to trial. Remelmeier has asked the court to dismiss the entire action on the grounds that placing the issue on the ballot would be illegal.

STATE LAWS, he said, dictate that a Redevelopment Agency may only be dissolved if it has no outstanding debts.

The move to block ACT's suit will probably be decided in about two weeks. If ACT is

defeated, the group may try to carry its case to the California Supreme Court. If ACT defeats the summary judgment, the City of Torrance must defend its case in court.

Torrance councilmen voted last night at their regular session to drop the 55-cent tax override which was to have appeared on the April ballot. This tax increase would have been necessary if federal funds for the project had been cancelled.

THE MEADOW Park Urban Redevelopment project involves the 56 acres of land just west of the Torrance (See RENEWAL, Page A-3)

Reagan Elevates Judge

South Bay Municipal Court Judge Raymond V. Choate Monday was elevated to the Superior Court by Governor Ronald Reagan.

Judge Choate, a Democrat, replaces Superior Court Judge Joe Raycraft, who has retired.

The new judge will be assigned to the criminal court in Los Angeles, it was reported.

Judge Choate, a native of New York, is a graduate of the University of Southern California School of Law. He received his degree in 1949. He served as a deputy public defender, then went into private practice until his appointment to the South Bay Municipal Court two years ago.

BY HEALTH OFFICER Cradle-to-Teen Tips Offered

Child health care may now start even before conception, according to Earl Kendrick, M.D., Torrance District health officer for the Los Angeles County Health Department. Dr. Kendrick spoke Monday before the Torrance Safety Council outlining cradle-to-teen health tips for parents.

It is now possible, Dr. Kendrick said, to screen a couple's genetic makeup, predicting any weakness that could cause a deformed child to be conceived.

Dr. Kendrick added a sidelight that one abnormal child will cost the community \$100,000 if he must be institutionalized. And these abnormalities tend to crop up in certain families. The district health officer said he knows of a Lomita family with six mentally retarded children.

PRE-NATAL care is another area frequently neglected, Dr. Kendrick pointed out. There are many ways in which medical science can in-

sure the birth of healthy babies. For example, the doctor stated, a woman with an Rh factor may now be desensitized so that she will not have an Rh baby. The mother-to-be may also be vaccinated against German measles, a frequent cause of birth defects.

Furthermore, an expectant mother should be tested for venereal disease and must also heed her doctor's advice concerning drugs. In a recent case, Dr. Kendrick noted, a woman taking so-called "diet pills" gave birth a retarded child.

DR. KENDRICK also gave some tips to parents of small children. No child, for instance, should be left alone in the company of a dog. Even the gentlest dog, Dr. Kendrick said, may revert to hostile instincts without warning.

Babies in cradles should not be left near venetian blinds where some infants have been known to strangle

themselves on the draw strings. Parents should not fail to immunize their children against the dread diseases, especially if they are going to visit outside the country. Dr. Kendrick said he gives his children polio sugar cube boosters every four years even though it is not considered necessary. "Why take a chance," he said, "when it costs so little?"

CHILD ABUSE is a problem in California, just as it is everywhere, Dr. Kendrick continued. New laws, however, have freed doctors from the fear of defamation suits, encouraging them to report child abuse cases.

Dr. Kendrick said that when he was working with a coroner's office, he handled two cases in which a child died of parental mistreatment. Several child abuse cases are now being investigated in Torrance, he added.

With teenagers, Dr. Kendrick said, it is essential to

give the true facts about sex and narcotics. Venereal disease among adolescents has risen sharply in recent years. Children as young as 8 years come to his clinic for VD treatment.

MARIJUANA, he said, is another problem. Comparing "pot" with alcohol, Dr. Kendrick said that marijuana poses a greater danger to society. A person drunk on alcohol, he said, is often unable to drive at all. On the other hand, someone high on marijuana may get behind a wheel without realizing that his judgment is impaired.

Suicide is another teen problem, according to Dr. Kendrick. Some 100,000 teenagers attempt suicide each year in the United States and 30,000 of them are successful. The doctor said that open lines of communication between parent and teenager may prevent this problem.

He also noted that Torrance has a suicide clinic, telephone 381-1511.

Ask New Crossing Measures

Emotions ran high Tuesday morning at a meeting of parents whose children must cross Normandie Avenue to attend 223rd Street Elementary School.

The meeting was called to protest the alleged lack of protection offered the 750 children who cross daily at a makeshift crosswalk at Normandie Avenue and Dunwich Street.

Last Thursday afternoon a 69-year-old crossing guard, Vernon Arnsdorf, was struck and killed by a vehicle which failed to stop before the horrified eyes of youngsters waiting to cross about 3:30 p.m.

He was the second crossing guard in two years to be hit. On June 17, 1965, Mrs. Betty Jo Walker was hit and today is permanently crippled.

An estimated 35 parents turned out Tuesday at the home of Mrs. Gary Ferguson, 1447 W. 220th St., to hear Councilman John S. Gibson's field representative, Joe Goss, and School Principal Joseph Moreno outline what could be done.

Goss told the angered mothers the Los Angeles City Council's general policy is to accept and act upon recommendations referred to it by Los Angeles City Schools Board of Education Safety-Education Committee.

MORENO told the parents he has requested a survey by the committee but did not know when they would take action. He promised to keep the parents informed.

Goss said that temporary steps to alleviate the problem could be taken under the category of "maintenance," such (See CROSSING, Page A-3)

Tear Gas Charges Dismissed

Charges of violating the dangerous weapons control act against a 44-year-old chemist were dismissed in Superior Court Monday. Glenn Siebel Arbutnot was freed by Judge John A. Shidler, who ruled that police seized evidence in the case—some \$30,000 worth of aerosol tear gas bombs—in an illegal manner. Arbutnot, of the Palms Verdes Peninsula, had contended that the evidence was illegally seized from his manufacturing plant, located at 20447 Earl St.

Carson Apartment Burns

Some 70 residents escaped unharmed from a blazing 28-unit Carson apartment early Tuesday morning. Three firefighters sustained minor injuries in fighting the blaze, which broke out in an upstairs apartment at 1339 W. Carson St. Los Angeles City firefighters worked for more than an hour to control the fire, which gutted the building and did damage estimated at more than \$15,000. A small Chihuahua dog was killed in the fire, it was reported. The injured firefighters were Earl James and Paul Olsen, who were showered by sparks when a section of the roof collapsed on them, and Capt. Kermit Nelson, who was cut by broken glass. All three were treated at the scene.

Delay Rubbish Collection

Rubbish collections in the city will be one day late next week, Walter M. Nollac, director of public works, has announced. Nollac said trash collection crews will observe Monday—Lincoln's Birthday—and work the following Saturday to complete their weekly collections.