

# It's Official—Carson County's 77th City

## Torrance Press-Herald

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**DISASTER DRILL SCENE . . .** This was the scene shortly after 2 p.m. Sunday at the Torrance High School stadium as a disaster drill got under way. The drill began when a simulated airplane collision occurred over the city. One of the planes crashed at Torrance High, while the second came down at El

Camino College. Some 400 volunteers were involved. Three persons were "killed" and 67 others from the Torrance High area and 50 at El Camino were given first aid and rushed to one of eight participating hospitals. Police said all victims were in hospitals 70 minutes after the initial report of the crash.



**AT HOSPITAL . . .** Dr. Jack Brokken treats one of the 67 persons "injured" in a simulated airplane crash staged here Sunday afternoon during a disaster drill conducted by hospitals and law enforcement agencies. Dr. Brokken is chief of the medical staff at Torrance Memorial Hospital. Victims of the crash were sent to eight area hospitals for treatment during the drill. (Press-Herald Photos by Hal Fisher)

### Simulate Crash

## Drill Rated Big Success

A disaster drill conducted here Sunday afternoon by the local chapter of the Los Angeles Medical Association has been called a success by co-ordinators of the drill. Dr. Earl W. Kendrick, Torrance district health officer and communications coordinator for the drill, said a second drill—probably simulating an earthquake—will be held sometime later this year. Sunday's drill began at 2 p.m. when two airliners collided over the city. One plane, carrying 50 passengers, crashed at El Camino College. The second, with 70 passengers on board, crashed at the Torrance High stadium. Police were called and units were dispatched to the two locations. In addition to Torrance police, Sheriff's units, Los Angeles County Lifeguards, and the Torrance Fire Department participated. Students from Torrance High and El Camino played the roles of injured passengers and volunteers from the Red Cross also were involved in the exercise. Under the direction of doctors assigned to the two crash scenes, passengers were sorted out, given first aid, then taken to one of eight hospitals for further treatment. (See DRILL, Page A-2)

# City Wins Round In Renewal Suit

## Carson Council Selects Marbut As First Mayor

The new City of Carson officially shouldered its mantle of independence Tuesday night in public ceremonies witnessed by more than 600 persons in the auditorium at Carson High School. John Marbut, principal of Dominguez Elementary School who led in the balloting for city councilmen, was elected first mayor of the new city by acclamation. Marbut and his four city council colleagues had taken their oaths of office earlier from James S. Mize, clerk of the County Board of Supervisors. Sworn in with the new mayor were Councilmen John Junk, Sak Yamamoto, Gilbert D. Smith, and H. Rick Clark.

## O'Brien Trial Jury May Get Case Friday

The prosecution rested its case yesterday in the murder trial of Jerry Lee O'Brien, 34, accused slayer of Torrance Police Officer David N. Seibert. Seibert was shot during a robbery Aug. 10, 1967, at a Torrance shopping center. A jury of six men and six women was seated Thursday afternoon and the first witness was called at 4 p.m. the same day. The trial was recessed at 11:30 a.m. Tuesday after Deputy District Attorney Robert Burnett presented testimony from 30 witnesses. The defense, represented by Public Defender Al Calof, was scheduled to present its case this morning when the court reconvened at 9:45 a.m. Hearing the case is Superior Court Judge Burch Donahue. The case is expected to go to the jury Friday. The District Attorney's office is seeking a first degree murder conviction against O'Brien.



J. WALKER OWENS  
President-Elect

## Chambers Designate Area Man

J. Walker Owens, executive vice president of the Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce, has been named president-elect of the California Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives by the 500-member organization meeting in Hollywood for its 55th annual conference. Owens, a veteran of 25 years in organization management profession, will take office at the 56th annual meeting of the group to be held at Lake Tahoe in February, 1969. Other officers elected by the Chamber Executives group included William Francis, Walnut Creek, president; and Fred Burtner of San Jose, James Culver of La Mesa, and D. David Smith of Stockton, vice presidents. JACK SMITH, Tulare, was elected secretary; Auden O. Schlatter of Glendale is treasurer, and Dick Fitzgerald of Redondo Beach is the new parliamentarian. Owens now is serving his fifth year at the helm of the Torrance organization. He is a past president of the South Carolina and Louisiana Chamber of Commerce executive associations and has held office in similar organizations in Texas and New York.

## Court Upholds Agency

The city of Torrance has emerged victorious from a legal battle concerning the city's Redevelopment Agency. City Attorney Stanley Remelemyer learned Tuesday that L.A. Superior Court Judge Richard Wells had granted his motion for summary judgment in a contest between the city and the Active Citizens of Torrance (ACT).

ACT had been suing to force the city to place a measure on the April municipal ballot asking voters to decide the fate of the Redevelopment Agency. The measure will not appear on the ballot as a result of the court ruling.

ACT MEMBERS were hoping to disband the Redevelopment Agency (RDA) in order to put a stop to the current Meadow Park renewal project.

The court, in granting Remelemyer's motion for summary judgment, also ruled that ACT's case was not substantial enough to merit a trial. Summary judgment simply means that a case is thrown out of court on a point of law.

In this case, Judge Wells pointed out that California state law says there are certain procedures required before a redevelopment agency may be dissolved. First of all, the agency must have no outstanding bonded indebtedness. Furthermore, the dissolution must have the written consent of all members of the agency. (In Torrance, the mayor and city councilmen sit as members of the Redevelopment Agency.)

BECAUSE of this state law, the court ruled, it would be impossible for the city voters to disband the agency through an election.

Voters could presumably advise members of the Redevelopment Agency to disband.

## Councilman Defends Pay Increase, Travel Costs

By NATALIE HALL  
Press-Herald Staff Writer  
City Councilman Ross A. Sciarrotta Sr. vigorously defended the need for a council pay raise at last night's regular City Council session. Dishing up facts and figures, Sciarrotta concluded that councilmen are paid roughly \$1.10 per hour for their services. "The minimum wage law is much greater than this, yet we will not go to the courts to sue for the violation of the minimum wage policy," Sciarrotta exclaimed. "That's a thought!" piped up Councilman Ken Miller, as snickers ran through the sparsely populated Council Chambers. Sciarrotta said of those now running for the three vacant council seats, "Campaigners may make an issue of this pay raise, but when and if elected they find out

the time involved, they too will not oppose a salary increase." "Here are the facts," he underlined: • "Council meetings average 2½ hours per week. • "Reading and studying the agenda—3 hours per week. • "Committee meetings—a minimum of 2 hours per week. • "The investigation of zoning matters, citizens' complaints, reading of the mail, and the minutes of commission meetings—8 hours per week. • "Communications of answering phone calls and writing of letters—2 hours per week. • "Miscellaneous county and inter-city meetings—2 hours per week. • "Attendance of functions honoring dignitaries and others—3 hours per week.

• "The mayor, because of Chamber activities and because of other ceremonies, puts in much more time than the average councilman. • "According to my calculations, the average workweek of a Torrance city councilman is 22.5 hours per week, or 90 hours per month." Sciarrotta, who is currently campaigning for the congressional seat now held by Rep. Cecil King, also defended the council's convention expenditures. "In the past 12 years," he said, "\$80,000 were spent for attendance to national and local conventions. However, he pointed out, this figure only amounts to \$5,000 per year and has resulted in many savings to the city. "Just one single idea I was exposed to in Philadelphia resulted in saving our fair city \$37,000 per year," Sciarrotta said.

## Husband Held in Shooting

Police are investigating the circumstances surrounding an apparent attempt at double murder after booking a Wilmington man for attempted murder following the shooting of his wife and a male friend at the Don Hotel Tuesday morning. According to details pieced together by Harbor Division detectives, Mary Yarbough, 37, of 1561 Lagoon Ave., Wilmington, was sitting in a parked car in front of the Don Hotel at Avalon Boulevard and I Street about 2:15 a.m. With her was John Lungsborg, a merchant seaman living at the Wilmington hotel. THEY EMERGED from the car just as Mrs. Yarbough's husband, Jesse, 43, of the Lagoon Avenue address above, (See SHOOTING, Page A-2)

## Two Killed in Traffic - -

A 31-year-old Wilmington man and an 8-year-old boy were killed in separate traffic accidents during the weekend. Neil Howard O'Dell, of 810 W. I St., died when his car went off Palos Verdes Drive North near San Pedro and struck a tree. The Carson boy, Chuck Walters, of 438 Carriage-dale Drive, was struck by a car Saturday morning while riding a skateboard near his home. He died late Sunday afternoon.

## Wilmington Soldier Killed - -

A Wilmington soldier was listed today by the Department of Defense as killed in action in Vietnam. He is Army Pfc. Thomas O. Meek, whose wife, Mrs. Marian D. Meek, lives at 1106 Papeete St. No details about the death were announced.

## First Candidates Meet Set - -

Eleven candidates for the City Council in the April 9 municipal election have been invited to address members of the North Torrance Property and Homeowners' Association Monday night. The session will be held in the Casimir School Cafeteria, 17220 Casimir Ave., at 8 p.m. William Hunter, president of the group, said a question and answer period will follow brief presentations by the candidates. The meeting is open to the public.

## Retail Sales Here Now Fifth Highest in State

Torrance is the number two city in Los Angeles County and the number five city of the state in general merchandise retail sales, the Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce reported today. According to sales figures just released by the State Board of Equalization, Torrance placed second in the county to the city of Los Angeles during the third quarter of 1967 in the general merchandise group, including department stores. Los Angeles had sales in the amount of \$156,611,000 for the period. This is an increase of 2.7 per cent over the comparable quarter of 1965. Torrance registered sales of \$21,893,000—an increase of 35 per cent over 1965. The most recent reports published by Sales Management magazine show that while Torrance is 13th in population in the state, it is 5th in general merchandise sales. The first four cities are Los Angeles, San Francisco, San Diego, and Oakland.