

Library Change-Over to Begin Next Month

Torrance

Press-Herald

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TO FLY IN VIETNAM . . . A California state flag and a Torrance Rotary Club banner have been sent to Marine Lance Cpl. Mark E. Bennett, Headquarters and Service Company, III Marine Amphibious Force, in Vietnam. John A. Tweedy (center) of Southwest Savings and Loan Association, donated the flag and banner. Accepting them for mailing to her son is Mrs. Eugene A. Bennett of 4247 W. 10th St., while George Ebert, representing the Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce, watches. Corporal Bennett wrote to the chamber asking for the flags. (Press-Herald Photo)

Chamber Will Oppose Housing Code Repeal

Local Control Is Key Issue, Directors Told

A move to repeal the city's housing code at the polls next month was unanimously opposed this week by directors of the Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce.

Acting after City Attorney Stanley Remelmeyer had explained implications of the ballot measure, directors were firm in their decision to oppose repeal of the codes.

The April 9 ballot measure came in response to petitions circulated by Active Citizens of Torrance (ACT), a group Remelmeyer told Chamber

directors was comprised of three ladies.

REPEAL of the housing code is being sought by ACT in an effort to block urban renewal in the city, but their effort is doomed to failure even if voters should approve the repeal, Remelmeyer said. Those responsible for the measure "didn't do their homework," he said.

A state housing code, with almost identical provisions, would become the operating statute upon repeal of the city code, he explained. Its net effect would be to insert another layer of government between the people of Torrance and their city officials.

Our Color Is Green

Today's the day for the wearing of the green.

And the Press-Herald didn't want to get caught off guard.

So today, our color is green. And with it goes a wish to the Irish—and the Irish at heart—for a Happy St. Patrick's Day.

IN ADDITION to bringing the state code into operation locally, repeal at the polls may have the effect of repealing other city codes governing electrical, plumbing, and building procedures.

The codes have been adopted as a "package" in response to state action requiring cities to adopt the state's code or one no less restrictive.

Repeal of the city code would remove city control over the matter and would mean that the city would have to depend on the legislature for any changes and for interpretation.

ABOVE ALL, Remelmeyer said, there exists a question about the legality of the petition which put the measure on the ballot.

Should the voters repeal the codes April 9, the city probably would attack the legality of the measure, he said.

Directors acted to oppose the measure after they were assured that repeal of the code would not change the procedures for inspection of the city's houses, and that it would have no real effect on the city's current urban renewal project.

Agreement Nearing on Sign Law

"Clutter signs" came under attack Thursday when the City Council's sign committee met to iron out differences between two proposed sign ordinances.

A compromise, acceptable to the City Council as a whole, must be reached between the official Planning Commission version of the sign ordinance and the recommendations from the Merchants' Sign Committee.

Planning Director Charles M. Shurtle said the council sign committee decided that

THOSE holding county licenses (See LIBRARY, Page A-2)

HENDERSON BRANCH

First Library Set To Open April 15

By NATALIE HALL
Press-Herald Staff Writer

Independence Day will come three days early for the new Torrance city library system. July 1 is the day library officials hope to have the new city system running completely independent of county ties.

Takeover from the long-established county library system in Torrance won't happen overnight, however, says City

Librarian Russell J. West. One at a time, each of the five county libraries will be closed for book transfers and reopened two to three weeks later.

The Isabel Henderson Library, 4805 Emerald St., is the first branch to be affected by the change-over. The branch will close March 27 and reopen April 15.

A PERIOD of "Fine Forgiveness" has been scheduled between March 25 and April 22. During this time span, anyone who has a book overdue at Henderson Library may return it without penalty. The overdue books should be brought to any of the other four branches.

S. J. Ector, head librarian at Henderson for the past three months, will continue as senior librarian at the branch.

The former park ranger holds a master's degree in library science from USC.

Closing and opening dates for the other branch libraries are as follows:

• El Retiro, 126 Vista del Parque, closes April 27, reopens May 13;

• North Torrance, 3604 W. Artesia Blvd., closes May 18, reopens June 3;

• WALTERIA, 3815 W. 242nd St., closes June 8, reopens June 19;

• Post Avenue, 1345 Post Ave., closes June 29, reopens August 5.

City and county library personnel are working toward an orderly transition from one system to the other. Inconvenience to library patrons will be minimized.

Isen Hits Exams for Librarians

Mayor Albert Isen expressed "shock" Tuesday night at the "incompetence" of county civil service testing officials when City Councilmen learned that results of recent library aide tests had to be thrown out because they were deemed inappropriate.

Isen said he had found that 75 per cent of questions on the test were mathematical and not geared toward general library knowledge. The Torrance Civil Service Commission, he said, had ruled against using the test results in selecting library aides.

The mayor called for an investigation of testing procedures to make sure that other city departments were not plagued by similar problems. "I don't think we're getting our money's worth," he said, exploring the possibility that the city should go back to hiring private testing agencies.

"SOMEONE should screen the type of exams given to prospective employees," he continued, "and examine the examiners if necessary." Councilman Ross Sciarrotta (See EXAMS, Page A-2)

Four New Police Officers End Training at Sheriff's Academy

(Photo on Page A-2) Four new officers have been assigned duty with the Torrance Police Department following their graduation from a 16-week training course at the Los Angeles Sheriff's Academy.

The new officers are Charles R. Hardesty, Richard T. Silagy, Paul J. Reuter, and Harvey Siegel. All four are assigned to the patrol division. Hardesty, 28, was born in Hammond, Ind., and attended schools there. He enlisted in the Marine Corps upon graduation from high school and served 4½ years with the Marines. He was employed by Pacific Telephone Co. prior to the Torrance Police Department.

wife, Cecelia, live in Torrance. Silagy, 22, was born in Brooklyn, N. Y., and came to California in 1947. He is a graduate of Palos Verdes High School where he lettered in baseball. He was employed in the painting industry before his appointment to the police department.

A graduate of El Camino College, Silagy was one of the first police cadets to be appointed by the local department. He is continuing his studies at Cal State, Long Beach and hopes to obtain a bachelor's degree in criminology. Silagy and his wife, Nancy, are parents of a nine-week old daughter and live in Torrance.

A native of Detroit, Mich., Reuter came to Torrance in

1955. The 22-year-old officer is a graduate of Bishop Montgomery High School and employed in the printing industry until his appointment to the police department.

REUTER was graduated from El Camino with a degree in police science. He lives in Torrance.

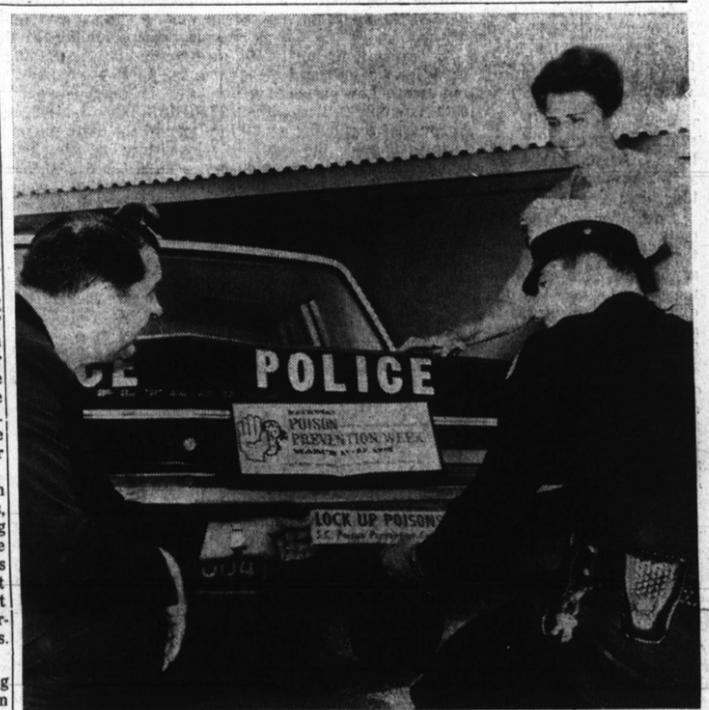
Siegel, 24, also was born in Detroit, Mich. He came to California in 1952. A graduate of South High School, he was employed by the Southern California Edison Co. until his appointment to the police department.

He and his wife, Bonnie, are parents of a daughter, Elizabeth Ann, and a son, Jeffrey Wade. The family lives in Torrance.

Following graduation exercises at the Hall of Administration in Los Angeles, the new officers and their guests were honored at a luncheon sponsored by the police department and the Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce.

Sponsors for the new officers included J. P. Leggett, district manager of Pacific Telephone Co.; L. E. Jenkins, district manager of the Southern California Edison Co.; Art Reeves, area manager for the Dominguez Water Co.; and James Becker, manager of the Southern California Gas Co. office here.

Special guests at the luncheon included William Uerkwitz, Pacific Telephone Co., and Al Diaz, editor of the Belvedere Citizen.



STEP UP CAMPAIGN . . . Chief of Police Walter R. Koenig (left) and Officer L. K. Harris of the Torrance Police Department affix a bumper sticker reminding residents to "Lock Up Poisons" to a patrol car. Watching is Mrs. Harold Roache, chairman of the public relations committee of the local Poison Prevention Committee. March 17 through 23 has been designated as "Poison Prevention Week" throughout the Southland. Children under the age of 5 are especially susceptible to poisoning from common substances found around the home, Mrs. Roache commented. (Press-Herald Photo)

Carson Street Proposals Presented to Merchants

Three proposed plans for widening a section of Carson Street in downtown Torrance were revealed to merchants in the area Thursday and were immediately attacked by Mayor Albert Isen.

Isen accused city traffic officials of trying to make an expressway out of Carson Street to serve the Del Amo Center.

The three plans were presented to the Downtown Merchants Association at a Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce luncheon. Merchants were asked to study the plans and recommend one of them to the city.

WALTER NOLLAC, director of public works, and Art Horkay, city traffic engineer, said the purpose of Thursday's session was simply to present the alternatives for widening of the street.

Car Bursts Into Flames; Man Escapes

A small foreign car was gutted by flames early Saturday morning after the battery shorted under the left rear seat, igniting a can of flammable engine cleaner.

A single engine company raced to 300 Crenshaw Blvd. at 5:45 a.m. to find the car already engulfed in flame. Fire officials said it took only three minutes to douse the blaze.

The car's owner, Grant H. Schleisner, 23820 Arlingtor Ave., was at the wheel when the fire broke out.

One plan would provide for four 12-foot driving lanes with left-turn pockets. A second plan provides for four 10-foot traffic lanes with parking on the north side of the street.

A landscaped median and left-turn pockets are included. The third plan provides for four 10-foot lanes, left-turn pockets, and parking on both sides of the street.

NOLLAC told the merchants' group there is some difference in the cost of each plan, but said the city was most interested in a plan which is acceptable to merchants in the area.

"We haven't made up our

Proposals which would eliminate or restrict parking drew quick fire from Isen. He suggested at one point that the first two alternatives be thrown out.

"You are only interested in creating a parkway to move traffic to the Del Amo Center," Isen said. "I could care less about Del Amo."

THE MAYOR said the city would not replace any parking which it eliminates with lots or other alternatives and said the result would be to put the little businessman out of business.

(See CARSON, Page A-2)

Teachers Elect Officers

Richard Odgers, a Torrance High School teacher, has been elected president of the Torrance Education Association. Odgers has been chairman of the association's salary committee. Other officers are Mary Barnett, Victor School, vice president; Joanne Allen-Hamilton, secretary; and Joe Rizzo, Perry School, treasurer. The new TEA officers were elected Tuesday.

Street Dedication Slated

A one-mile section of Sepulveda Boulevard between Cabrillo and Normandie avenues will be dedicated Friday morning at 9 a.m. by Supervisor Burton W. Chace. Construction costs for the project were shared by the county, which contributed \$230,000, and the cities of Torrance and Los Angeles. Ribbon-cutting ceremonies are to be held at the Western Avenue intersection.

Torrance Soldier Killed

A Torrance soldier was one of eight servicemen listed Friday by the Department of Defense as killed in action in Vietnam. He is Cpl. Larry Munoz, son of Mrs. Helen M. Munoz of 239 W. 220th St. No details about his death were announced.