

Police Begin Crackdown on Park Vandals

Torrance

Press-Herald

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Carnival Rated Success

Operation Nepal last weekend netted \$5,000 to \$7,000 for a tiny high school in the Himalayas. Sponsored by the student body of South High, the carnival extravaganza was attended by several thousand persons.

William Unger, faculty chairman for the event, said that 1,200 students (nearly half the enrollment of South High) participated in making Operation Nepal a success.

"The students really did all the work," Unger stressed. "Teachers just helped to supervise." He added that the three-day fund-raiser was the result of months of effort which began last summer.

Three adult sponsors from the community also deserve credit for the success of Operation Nepal, Unger said. They are Mrs. Glenna Willett, Mrs. Joan Burdette, and Mrs. Edie Larson.

The money will be sent to Azad High School in Banepa, Nepal, where it will be used to purchase equipment for the students. Peace Corps workers will administer the funds, Unger stated.



CARNIVAL MIDWAY . . . Scenes like this one were common around the South High Campus during the weekend as several thousand persons visited the school to participate in "Operation Nepal." Some \$5,000 to \$7,000 was raised during the three-day carnival. The money will be sent to Azad High School in Banepa, Nepal, where it will be used to buy supplies and equipment for the educational program. (Press-Herald Photo)

Voters to Decide Sale of Bus Line

Pueblo Renewal Denied

Street Project Stirs Rumors

The ugly specter of urban renewal in the Pueblo area of Torrance was raised before the City Council Tuesday evening and was quickly shot down amid a volley of charges, countercharges, motions, and "explanations."

Breathing short life into what he called Federal Urban Renewal Project No. 2 was telephone company executive William Uerkwitz, a candidate for election to the City Council in April.

Speaking to the councilmen as they were holding a Torrance Renewal Agency session, Uerkwitz charged that the city had "hired people in the Federal Urban Renewal Agency to acquire land and relocate people" in the Pueblo area. He said it was "being done secretly, without publicity or public knowledge."

But he promised, "We're going to make it rough on both the parents and the kids and we know it will hurt the parents more in the pocket-book."

Captain Hammond noted that only about half of one per cent of area youngsters are responsible for park vandalism. And they usually operate in groups of two. "A kid by himself won't usually do it," he said. "They seem to



LARRY BOWMAN

Chamber Executive To Speak

Attorney Larry Bowman, president of the Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce, will discuss goals of the expanded Chamber at a meeting of the Torrance Jaycees tomorrow.

The Jaycees, who are holding their annual Husband and Wife Awards banquets, will meet at the Jump 'n Jack Restaurant, 2900 Pacific Coast Hwy.

Bowman and J. Walker Owens, executive vice president of the Chamber, will present the program.

Sharon Terrill, newly crowned Miss Torrance, and her princesses, Darcey Barcroft and Etta Cumiford, also will participate in the program. Jaycees will pay tribute to merchants who played a major role in the Miss Torrance pageant.

Bowman, in addition to his duties as president of the Chamber, is serving as chairman of the city's Charter Review Committee and as a member of the Civil Service Commission. He recently was named Citizen of the Year for 1967 by the West Torrance Lion's Club.

Fare Hike Set; Sale Postponed For Six Months

By NATALIE HALL
Press-Herald Staff Writer

Torrance bus riders will begin paying a base fare of 35 cents in about a month—10 cents more than the current 25-cent fare.

The surprise action came at last night's City Council meeting, accompanied by further action to let voters decide the fate of the money-losing Torrance Municipal Bus Lines. Councilmen voted to place the issue on the primary ballot in June, giving voters the option of keeping the bus line or selling it to the Southern California Rapid Transit District.

Councilman Ken Miller suggested the fare hike as a last resort in saving the bus line, stating the increase would cut the deficit from about \$100,000 per year to roughly \$25,000. In accepting Miller's motion, councilmen also voted to postpone for six months the sale of the bus lines to SCRTD.

ONLY councilman to vote against the sale postponement was Ed Talbert, who asked why 40,000 taxpayers would subsidize a bus line used by only 1,100 people. He said people who use the bus lines ought to pay for them and stated a 10-cent fare increase would not make enough difference in the deficit.

Miller defended his plan, saying the city would maintain local control of the bus system and could easily live with the smaller deficit. Councilman Ross Sciarrotta expressed his belief some services to the public should be subsidized, adding that in six months, the council will be better able to assess the

bus system after experimenting with the new rate.

Sciarrotta also noted that many of those who use the bus system are elderly, stating that it's the city's duty to "take care of them."

FOR THE FIRST time since the bus sale came under consideration months ago, many comments were heard from the floor.

Mrs. Gertrude Eustace, 5320 Bindewald Road, who rides the bus every day, delivered an emotional appeal for upgraded bus service. "Right now there are people in the city of Torrance who are marooned in their homes on weekends because of the lack of bus service," she stated.

"Many elderly people do not now drive, have no one on whom to depend for transportation, and do need to get out among people for mental and physical stimulation," she said.

Blayne Asher spoke next, stating the council's compromise on the bus issue should have been made months ago so it wouldn't have the political overtone associated with the upcoming municipal elections.

ASHER FURTHER suggested that the bus issue be submitted to the voters after a formal study could be made on further deficits.

Councilman David K. Lyman moved to place the matter on the June ballot, stating he still firmly favored selling the bus lines to SCRTD.

Voting against ballot status for the measure were Mayor Albert Isen and Councilman (See BUS, Page A-2)

Police Patrols Increased; Parents Must Pay Damages

Police Department officials have announced bold new steps to crack down on vandalism in public parks, placing the blame for juvenile offenders squarely on parents' shoulders.

Capt. Robert E. Hammond said yesterday that a sharp increase in vandalism since the first of the year had forced police and city officials to take action.

More than \$1,000 damage was done to Torrance parks in January and February, Hammond said. Damage for the month of March has not yet been assessed.

THE TORRANCE police captain issued a stern warning to parents of juveniles responsible for the destruction. "When we catch up with

these kids," he stressed, "we're going to prosecute the parents and make them pay for the damage."

There is no doubt in Hammond's mind that the vandalism can be traced to youthful offenders between 8 and 15 years of age.

To bring these children to justice, Hammond said, the Torrance Police Department has assigned several plainclothesmen in unmarked cars to patrol the city's 16 public parks. The sleuthing began last weekend and will continue until the problem is under control.

"IT'S RATHER difficult to catch these youngsters with orthodox methods," Captain Hammond explained. "They

see the black and white coming."

Furthermore, he said, the police have begun a rigid enforcement of the 10 p.m. curfew for those under 18 years of age.

Hammond noted that butchered foliage accounts for the most costly destruction. Trees are found chopped down and flower beds trampled.

Vandals also mar walls with obscenities, written in spray paint, and burglarize park offices. Hardest hit have been Torrance, El Nido, Hickory, and Guenser parks, Hammond added.

"THE SAD thing about this

destruction is that parents don't educate their children," Hammond continued, noting that the high cost of maintaining parks boomeranged back to parents through taxes.

But he promised, "We're going to make it rough on both the parents and the kids and we know it will hurt the parents more in the pocket-book."

Captain Hammond noted that only about half of one per cent of area youngsters are responsible for park vandalism. And they usually operate in groups of two. "A kid by himself won't usually do it," he said. "They seem to

(See PARKS, Page A-2)

AT TORRANCE HIGH

Indian Group To Visit Here

Torrance High School will house 250 students from the Papago Indian Reservation in Arizona during the week of April 10 through 18.

Housing and entertaining the Indians became a project of Torrance High following approval by the Board of Education Monday night.

Principal Dr. Carl R. Ahee said sightseeing tours will be arranged for the guests.

School facilities will be used to house and feed them for the first four days of their visit. From April 14 to 18 the YWCA and nearby church facilities will be used.

WHEN SCHOOL reconvenes April 15 following spring vacation, the Indian Oasis School students will participate in a Torrance High assembly.

Dr. Ahee hopes the project can develop into an exchange program whereby Torrance students will be able to visit

the Indian Reservation at a later date.

The request for Torrance to house the Indians was made by Herchel W. Merchant, superintendent of the Indian Oasis School, who wrote Dr. Ahee.

"OUR SCHOOL is located on the Papago Indian Reservation which borders Mexico in the desert of southern Arizona. Here many people live much as they did before the white man came to this country.

"The Papago people want an opportunity to take their rightful place in American society. Their only hope lies in education, and this is foremost in each person's mind.

"We believe the educational goals of the Papago children cannot be fulfilled without joining hands with others. We hope your community can offer us the hand of friendship in a cultural exchange program."



TRAINING EXERCISE . . . Firefighter sprays water onto a house in the Meadow Park Redevelopment area which was burned by the Fire Department Monday. Several homes in the area—a part of the airport clear zone property owned by the city—have been burned in a series of training exercises being conducted by the local department. Battalion Chief A. M. Salcido was in charge of the exercise. (Press-Herald Photo)

Drainage Facilities Completed

Completion of nearly a mile and a half of additional drainage facilities in Torrance has been announced by Supervisor Burton W. Chace.

The work was carried out by Paul Vukich Construction Co. of Arcadia under terms of a \$570,592 contract awarded by the Board of Supervisors April 25, 1967.

The project provides additional relief to sections of 238th Street, 234th Street, Ocean Avenue, Rolling Hills Road, Via Bonita, Via La Ciruela, Camino Del Campo, Paseo de Gracia, and Anza Avenue.

Financing was provided in the \$275 million storm drain bond issue approved by County voters in 1964, Chace said.

The completed facilities will be integrated into the flood control and storm drain complex serving the Southwest area, Chace added.

Four Killed in Vietnam

Two Torrance servicemen and a Redondo Beach Navyman were listed Monday as killed in action in Vietnam by the Department of Defense. A fourth combat death was reported early today. Pentagon spokesmen identified the men as Army Pfc. James A. Blankenship, son of Mrs. Lucille V. Blankenship of 2601 W. 163rd St.; Army Pvt. Russell E. Hupe, son of Mrs. Joy A. Williams of 1329 E. 215th Place; Navy Lt. Barry W. Hoop-Ave., Redondo Beach; and Army Pfc. Edward A. Devore Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Edward A. Devore Sr. of 1602 W. 240th St., Harbor City.

Hawthorne Man Arrested

A 28-year-old Hawthorne man was arrested on suspicion of possession of dangerous drugs and marijuana by Torrance police early Tuesday. Booked at the Torrance Police Department was Richard Lee Davis, 5002 W. 134th Place, Hawthorne. Police said they first observed Davis in the area behind an apartment complex at 3725 Garnet St. A vial of white pills and several cigarettes believed to be marijuana were found. Police also charged Davis with suspicion of burglary when they discovered numerous tools in his vehicle.

\$2,300 in Cash Taken

Theft of \$2,300 in \$50 and \$100 bills was reported to Torrance police Tuesday by David D. Thompson, 21, of 3922 Emerald St., Apt. 89. Thompson told police he had received the money as part of an insurance settlement and had left it in his apartment. He said he last saw the money about 10:30 p.m. Monday and discovered the theft about 9:30 a.m. Tuesday after returning from a walk.