

O'Brien Sentenced to Die in Gas Chamber

(Story in Column 1)

Torrance

Press-Herald

Published semi-weekly Wednesday and Sunday by King Williams Press, Inc. Entered as second class matter January 20, 1914, at Post Office, Torrance, California, Under act of March 3, 1879.

INSIDE TODAY

Ann LandersA-5 PTA NewsB-2
CrosswordA-5 SportsB-3
EditorialsA-4 Women's NewsB-1
ObituariesA-2 Want AdsB-4

TO CALL US

Circulation OfficeDA 5-1515
AdvertisingDA 5-6060
Women's NewsDA 5-6380
News DepartmentDA 5-6060

Series II, Volume IV, Number 79

★ ★

3238 Sepulveda Blvd., Torrance, California—Sunday, March 31, 1968

By Carrier 50c Per Month
By Mail, \$18 Per Year

10c Per Copy

14 Pages



CANDIDATES MEETING . . . Mrs. James van Oppen (left), president of the Torrance League of Women Voters, and Mrs. Austin Woodward, voter service chairman, point to a sign advertising a candidates' meeting here Wednesday evening. All 11 candidates for the Torrance City Council have been invited to speak at the Torrance Recreation Center at 8 p.m. Mrs. van Oppen said all candidates have indicated they will attend. The League of Women Voters has prepared brief biographical sketches on each of the candidates and the material will be available for distribution at Wednesday's session. (Press-Herald Photo)

Hermosa Lawyer Gets Appointment to Bench

Court Vacancy Filled

Governor Ronald Reagan Friday named Thomas W. Fredericks, a Hermosa Beach attorney and president of the South Bay Bar Association, a judge of the South Bay Municipal Court.

Fredericks, 56, fills a vacancy created when Reagan elevated Judge Raymond Choate to the Superior Court. The new judge has served as city attorney of Hermosa Beach since last July 1. Prior to that, Fredericks had served as assistant city attorney and as city prosecutor for Hermosa Beach.

TIMOTHY J. O'Connor, first vice president of the South Bay Bar Association, will succeed Fredericks as leader of the Bar Association. Judge Fredericks was born in Minnesota and graduated from George Washington High School in Los Angeles. He holds a bachelor of arts degree in international relations from the University of Southern California. Fredericks also took his law degree at USC.

A MEMBER of the Board of Trustees of the Hermosa Beach City Schools, Fredericks is a former member of the beach city's planning commission. He was honored in 1963 as the Hermosa Beach Man of the Year.

Fredericks and his wife, Gloria, have two teenage sons. The family lives at 562 24th St., Hermosa Beach.

Loyola Students In Honor Society

Two Loyola juniors from Torrance are among 34 candidates for Alpha Sigma Nu, the national honor society of Jesuit colleges and universities.

They are Jack A. Tweedy, 1325 Arlington Ave., studying business administration, and John A. Jackson, 2076 W. 235th St., majoring in arts and sciences.

Initial plans for facilities to house the School of Social and Behavioral Sciences at California State College, Dominguez Hills, have been approved, it was announced here Friday. The \$2 million facility was designed by George Verifon and Associates, Los Angeles. Bids for construction of the three-story building, to be built of concrete and glass, will be accepted later this year, college officials reported.

Tax Deadline Nears

Final payments on 1967-68 property taxes are due by April 10, Harold J. Ostly, county tax collector, said today. Ostly said property owners who do not meet the April 10 deadline are subject to a 6 per cent penalty and \$3 per parcel in costs for processing late payments. Payments may be mailed, but should be postmarked by April 10. Failure to receive a tax bill does not relieve the property owner of a penalty in the event of late payments, Ostly said.

Burglars Rob Home

Burglars managed to cart off \$3,000 worth of household goods Friday from the Torrance home of Stephen Parker, 25 and Wayne Brown, 26, 20807 Felker Drive. Forcing a bedroom window screen, the unknown suspects removed a television set, a stereo, and clothing.

Pistol Range Guttled

Fire gutted the interior of the Torrance Police Department pistol range early Wednesday afternoon when an acetylene torch set flammable insulation ablaze.

The mishap occurred at 2 p.m. as police officers were attempting to remove an obsolete bullet trap from the east end of the range building. Damage was estimated at \$2,000.

Firemen battled the smoldering flames for two hours, cutting an 18-inch square hole through the roof to reach the blazing insulation.

Police spokesmen explained that the fire was inaccessible, located between the steel bullet trap and the rear wall of the range building.

The pistol range, located behind the Torrance Police Station, will be closed for the next three weeks. Police said the range would have been closed for this period of time anyway for extensive remodeling.



PISTOL RANGE BLAZE . . . Torrance firefighters had to chisel a hole through six inches of concrete in order to battle the blaze that broke out Wednesday afternoon in the police pistol range building, just behind the Torrance Police Station. Trapped between a steel bullet trap and a solid wall, the fire started when policemen accidentally set flammable insulation afire with an acetylene torch during repairs. It took firemen two hours to extinguish the inaccessible blaze. (Press-Herald Photo)

Proposed Bus Sale To Face Legal Test

By NATALIE HALL, Press-Herald Staff Writer
Does the state Public Utilities Code apply to the chartered city of Torrance?

The proposed sale of the Torrance Municipal Bus System may serve to test this question, legal officials here believe. The Public Utilities Code requires that two thirds of the City Council and two thirds of the voters approve the sale of the bus lines before they can be legally sold.

City Councilmen have been contemplating the sale of the money-losing municipal bus system for months. Only re-

cently did they decide to feel the pulse of local voters, ordering that the issue be placed on the November general election ballot.

THE COUNCIL fulfilled its portion of the two thirds requirement by voting 5-1 in favor of the sale. Suppose, however, that only a simple majority of the voters elect to sell the bus system. Could the council still go through with the sale?

City Attorney Stanley E. Remelmeyer thinks it can. He contends that the two thirds requirement of the Public Utilities Code need not apply here because the city of Torrance has its own municipal charter. Code stipulations may be applicable only in general law cities, which receive their mandate from Sacramento.

Supporting this belief, Remelmeyer said, is the fact that the State Legislature has authorized the Southern California Rapid Transit District to go ahead with negotiations to purchase city bus systems throughout the area.

SINCE HE doesn't think the Public Utilities Code applies to the sale, Remelmeyer months ago advised the City Council that no election on the issue was necessary at all.

However, Remelmeyer plans to institute a validity suits in the courts (in the event of a simple voter ma-

majority). He feels this suit would be necessary to make sure that the courts agree with his opinion on the legality of the bus sale.

THE PUBLIC Utilities Code also requires that the ballot measure tell the voters what the sale proceeds will be used for. The City Council has earmarked the funds for park and recreation purposes.

In spite of the fact that Remelmeyer feels the Public Utilities Code doesn't apply to the local bus sale, he is encouraging the City Council to meet code requirements if they wish to sell the bus system. Then there will be no doubt about the legality of the sale.

Retirement Bill Signed By Reagan

Capitol News Service

SACRAMENTO—Governor Ronald Reagan has signed into law a bill which will permit employees of regional occupational centers to become members of the Public Employees Retirement System.

The bill was authored by Assemblyman L. E. (Larry) Townsend (D-Torrance) and takes effect immediately.

The new law applies to employees who are not eligible to join the state teachers' retirement system.

'Silent Middle' Should Back Police, Chief Says

It's time for the great mass of law abiding citizens—the silent middle—to assert themselves and back up police officials in their efforts to enforce the law, Los Angeles Police Chief Thomas Reddin declared here Thursday.

Reddin described the present as an "age of discontent" and said psychological warfare is being waged in America's great cities today by people who want rapid change.

The Los Angeles police chief addressed members of Rotary Clubs from Palms Ver-

des Estates, Lomita, and the Riviera Village.

HE TOLD Rotarians that 52 per cent of all felony crimes in the nation are committed by persons under 18 years of age.

Reddin described police officers as the "men in the middle" and said law enforcement officials must walk a fine line between overreacting and underreacting when confronted in the streets. On one hand, he said, police are accused of being oppressive, while another segment of society accuses police of being "too permissive."

The search for balance is one of the most important aspects of the police officer's job today, Reddin declared.

THAT SEARCH is complicated, he added, by the tradition of permitting dissent in a democratic society. It is the manner in which that dissent is expressed that is of concern, Reddin said.

Reddin said society should not condone defiance of the law, regardless of the purpose of that defiance. When laws become burdensome, then they should be changed—in an orderly fashion, he declared.

Today's police officers must have the wisdom of Solomon.

Breakfast Date

Red Cross youth from this area will host a public pancake breakfast today to raise funds for an Easter Fun Day for underprivileged children.

This Sunday's fund raising breakfast will be held at Higgins Brick Yard, 2217 W. Arctesia Blvd., from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Cost is \$1.



POLICE CHIEF TALKS . . . Los Angeles Police Chief Thomas Reddin (far right) talks with presidents of three area Rotary Clubs following a joint meeting which he addressed Thursday. With Reddin are (from left) Dale Dandoy, Lomita; Paul Peppard, Palms Verdes Estates; and George Blair, Riviera Village. Blair served as host for the joint session. Reddin was made an honorary mayor of Redondo Beach during the meeting. (Press-Herald Photo)

O'Brien Trial

Death Order Read

Jerry Lee O'Brien was formally sentenced to die in the San Quentin gas chamber for the murder of Torrance Police Officer David N. Seibert.

Sentencing took place Friday in the courtroom of Superior Court Judge Burch Donahue. The judge denied a motion by Public Defender Bud Calof for a retrial and a reduced sentence.

O'Brien has an automatic appeal in a death sentence.

A jury found him guilty of shooting the police officer during an Aug. 10 holdup of a Torrance market. The death penalty was rendered by the same jury March 8.

O'Brien, 34, will be taken by sheriff to San Quentin prison within 10 days and delivered to the warden.

In making the sentence Judge Donahue made it clear the case would receive further consideration through the appeals court.

Aeronca, Inc.

Wins Contract

Aeronca, Inc., has received a new contract from Grumman Aircraft Engineering Corporation to produce bonded structural assemblies for the A6A Intruder aircraft, according to A. G. Handschumacher, Aeronca president.

The carrier-based A6A Intruder, an all-weather attack plane, has proved to be one of the most effective weapons in the U.S. Navy's arsenal of aircraft.