

Freeway Route Hearing Set for September

By NATALE HALL
Press-Herald Staff Writer

Property owners whose land lies in the path of the proposed Torrance Freeway were reassured Monday night that they can expect fair market value from the state in exchange for their homes or businesses.

West High School cafeteria was filled nearly to capacity for the first of two identical freeway informational sessions, presented by State Division of Highways representatives Sid Elicks and Vern Hall.

Those attending the meeting learned that the state

has proposed 12 alternate routes for the 11-mile Torrance Freeway, which will extend from the Route 1 Freeway at Vermont Avenue (Harbor City) westward and then northward to the San Diego near Compton Boulevard (Redondo Beach).

The westernmost alternative (know as the blue route) extends south from the San Diego Freeway and continues along the boundary between Torrance and Redondo Beach south of 190th Street. The blue route then continues south of Waleria through Rolling Hills Estates and Lomita.

The easternmost alternative (known as the red route) extends south from the San Diego Freeway along Inglewood Boulevard and continues along a path just east of Anza Avenue, turning east along a route just north of Lomita Boulevard into Harbor City.

The other alternatives crisscross between the red and blue routes. Route maps may be obtained at the next informational meeting Wednesday, July 31, at South High School, which begins at 7:30 p.m.

Formal state hearings on

the route selection will be held sometime in September, with the precise route to be adopted early next year, Elicks and Hall said.

Interested civic groups, homeowners' associations, and individuals will be given the opportunity to express their views at these hearings. Final choice of the Torrance Freeway route will be based on the effect of the route upon local communities, existing and future traffic demands, and the initial cost of the project.

Following the hearings, the State Division of Highways will make its recom-

mendation to the State Highway Commission, which will hand down the final decision as to the freeway route. The commission, Elicks and Hall said, is a group of seven citizens appointed by the governor.

Elicks and Hall stressed that the commission has made no final decision concerning the route and will make no decision until after the hearings.

If a controversy should develop, a decision on the freeway route could be delayed an additional six months or longer, the two representatives said. At any

rate, actual construction on the freeway is at least ten years off and the state won't begin to purchase property for at least another four or five years, they added.

Each parcel of property will be individually appraised by the state's staff of professional appraisers, who will consider the value of patios, pools, built-in appliances, and other home features.

If property owners are dissatisfied with the offer, the state must hire outside appraisers and take the case to court. Property will be appraised for its value at

the time when it is to be purchased and property owners may sell their land and buildings at any time before the state buys it.

Elicks and Hall noted that the state will pay up to \$200 for moving residences and up to \$3,000 for moving businesses, in addition to all closing costs and escrows.

Tenants may continue to rent their homes or businesses from the state if the buildings are not scheduled to be demolished for a period of time. Ordinarily, they said, tenants and property owners are given six months notice before they are re-

quired to move and the state provides a relocation advisory service.

Some local residents expressed concern over the fact that the Torrance City Council has indicated a preference for the "blue route," which would straddle the boundary between Redondo Beach and Torrance. One woman asked Elicks and Hall what an individual citizen could do to counteract such a powerful opinion group. They replied that any citizen's views will be taken into consideration at the hearing in September.

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Series II, Volume 5, Number 5

3238 Sepulveda Blvd., Torrance, California 90510—Wednesday, July 17, 1968

10c Per Copy By Carrier 50c Per Month By Mail, \$18 per Year 48 PAGES

Driver Jailed

Crash Takes Life of Man

A Torrance man tinkering with his car's engine died Sunday evening shortly after his car was struck by another vehicle.

Driver of the second car was booked on charges of manslaughter, felony hit-and-run, felony drunk driving, driving under the in-

fluence of a narcotic, and possession of marijuana.

Police said the victim, Anthony Willie Frye, 56, of 17424 Delia Ave., died at 6:28 p.m. at Gardena Emergency Hospital, less than an hour after the mishap, although he had been conscious and coherent when the ambulance arrived.

The 18-year-old manslaughter suspect is LaVerne (Larry) W. Hoyt of 1724 Spreckles Lane, Redondo Beach.

POLICE SAID Hoyt's station wagon was headed west on Artesia Boulevard, just west of Delia Avenue, when it plowed into the left rear side of Frye's parked car, forcing the car over the curb and into an adjacent garage.

Frye was found under the wreckage, police said. He had apparently been standing on the right side of his car or had possibly been leaning in the right door when the collision occurred, police reported.

Officers arriving at the scene at 5:45 p.m. found two men restraining the suspect, Hoyt, who apparently had tried to flee. Police said Hoyt was barely able to walk by himself. A search of the suspect turned up a plastic bag filled with a green leafy substance resembling marijuana, officers said.

WITNESSES who had been traveling in the car behind Hoyt's told police the Hoyt station wagon had been driving "all over the road" just prior to the accident.

The young suspect, employed as a mechanic at a Torrance service station, told police he had taken three seconal capsules and smoked two marijuana cigarettes earlier in the day. He said he had reached over to (See CRASH, Page A-2)



NEW MISS TORRANCE . . . Darcy Jo Barcroft (left), a 19-year-old El Camino College coed, accepts a bouquet of roses from Sharon Kay Terrill, Miss California of 1968. Miss Barcroft was crowned Miss Torrance Saturday evening, succeeding Sharon. The new Miss Torrance and Miss California were honored at a dinner sponsored by the Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce and the Jaycees. (Press-Herald Photo)

She'll Get to Ride In Parade After All

By TIM O'DONNELL
Press-Herald Staff Writer

Darcy Barcroft, a pert El Camino sophomore who finished second in the Miss Torrance Pageant, will get a ride in the Tournament of Roses after all.

She was crowned the new Miss Torrance Saturday night by Sharon Terrill, formerly Miss Torrance and now Miss California. Darcy takes over Sharon's official duties as the City's new representative.

Born in Long Beach, she is the daughter of Mrs. Paula Barcroft of 14916 Cordary Ave., Hawthorne, and is excited about the prospect of being Torrance's official hostess until next March.

"BUT MOST of all, there is the Rose Parade," she said, "and that goes all over the country. I can wave to my aunt in Arkansas." She might also smile at old friends in Niceville, Fla.,

where she spent part of her childhood.

The 19-year-old native is a 1967 Leuzinger High graduate, where she served as cheerleader, sophomore queen, and Homecoming Queen—a Leuzinger record.

She is now engaged to her high school football hero, Gwen Cooper, who is a starting wingback at UCLA. No date has been set for the marriage.

DARCY considers being named Miss Torrance as her biggest thrill, although she is not new to photographers and publicity. The long-haired brunette was the publicity gal for last summer's Lion's All-Star Football Classic, and cover-girl on a national armed forces magazine.

Her brother Barry, a helicopter pilot in Vietnam, couldn't believe his eyes when he saw her face smiling at him on the magazine. "He told all of his buddies I was his sister, but none of them believed him," laughed Darcy. She's mailing him more pictures to verify that claim.

EMPLOYED at Garrett Corp., Darcy plans to finish school and go to teach at the college level.

"I guess it sounds trite—all girls seem to want to teach—but I'm really interested in it," she said. She (See DARCY, Page A-2)

Council Hikes Expense Cost

Mayor Wins Boost

City Councilmen's official expenses for postage, telephone bills, car mileage, dinners, and secretarial service seem to be exceeding their official expense accounts.

The seven lawmakers voted 5-2 Tuesday night to raise Mayor Albert Isen's expense account ceiling from \$175 to \$250, and then voted 4-3 to boost their own ceiling from \$125 to \$150.

The two councilmen voting against the mayor's raise, Ken Miller and William J. Uerkwitz, favor the ceiling boost in principle, but believe that an itemized account of expenditures should be presented to justify the measure.

THE MOVE to raise councilmen's expense accounts picked up one more vote: that of Dr. Donald E. Wilson. Councilman Wilson also expressed his view that any boost should be accompanied by an itemized justification.

Councilmen had voted the expense ceilings last spring because of public sentiment against a salary raise for the council. No ceiling had existed before.

Monthly salary for each of the seven councilmen, in addition to their expense accounts, is \$100.

COUNCILMAN Miller said that he could not justify an expense account raise for himself and suggested that any councilman exceeding his limitations submit a breakdown of expenses.

"We've got to establish some criteria so we don't lose the confidence of the public," Miller said. "I'll challenge a figure thrown at me on any given night."

"Maybe \$250 isn't enough," Miller continued. "Maybe \$300 or \$350 is justifiable, but it should be on the basis of statistics."

Mayor Isen defended the boost, claiming he spends half his working hours on city business, all for \$100 a month, and that it is unfair for the city to force him to be "out of pocket" for side expenses.

Isen also said his secretary is threatening to quit because she has to spend so much time answering city telephone calls.

New Committee Named to Study Executive Pay

Top city officials are grossly underpaid, according to a salary survey submitted Tuesday night to the City Council by City Manager Edward J. Ferraro.

Ferraro's survey, based on comparisons with seven other cities, recommended raises ranging from 7½ per cent for the city attorney and assistant city manager to 24 per cent for the city manager.

Others included in the salary survey were the city clerk, city treasurer, two administrative assistants, director of public works, police chief, fire chief, building and safety director, and finance director.

COUNCILMEN received the report with mixed views. Mayor Albert Isen termed the recommended raises "astronomical," while Councilman William J. Uerkwitz objected to granting the raises "in one lump sum."

Councilman Donald E. Wilson said that City Manager Ferraro shouldn't have to apologize for a report that says he should be upgraded. "We must pay salaries that will attract and hold the top people to implement the city's program," he emphasized, stating that the city of Torrance is paying salaries much below those of other cities of comparable size.

THE REPORT indicates that Ferraro's salary should be raised from \$25,344 to \$32,508 annually. The raise includes the 2½ per cent housing adjustment and the 5 per cent general increase already voted by the City Council.

Councilmen voted to submit the report to an ad hoc committee for further study. Committee members will be Councilmen Ken Miller, chairman, and Councilmen Ross Sciarrotta and Uerkwitz.

Torrance Man Convicted - - -

Forty-seven-year-old Henry Coy McGee, of 22020 S. Bonita Ave., was convicted of voluntary manslaughter Monday in the New Year's Eve death of a 35-year-old Long Beach barber. Superior Court Judge John L. Donnellan returned the verdict in Long Beach and set Aug. 9 for a probation and sentencing hearing. McGee is free on \$10,000 bail. The barber, Thomas Wadena, was shot three times shortly after 3 a.m. last Jan. 1. Witnesses testified McGee became involved in an argument at a party, left, then returned with two guns. The state had asked for a second degree murder conviction. Defense attorney Albert C. S. Ramsey said he would move for a new trial to reduce the verdict to involuntary manslaughter.

Funds Approved for Center - - -

Funds for the establishment of a parent-child center in Harbor City were approved yesterday by the Office of Economic Opportunity. A total of \$244,700 was allocated to the Economic Youth Opportunity Agency in Los Angeles to operate the center for 16 months. Goal of the center is to aid the development of children under 3 years of age from disadvantaged families.

New Post Office Opens - - -

A new Post Office branch, to be known as the Cross Town Branch, has been opened at 22846 S. Western Ave., Postmaster Carl L. Backlund has announced. Hours of service are 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Saturday. All postal window services except the mailing of international and C.O.D. parcels will be available at the new branch. The post office is located at Peninsula Floors and is being operated by Floyd Davis, owner of the firm.

Valuation Put at \$393 Million

Property owners in Torrance probably will get away with no increase in the city's tax rate this year, but school taxes appear likely to go up.

That is the first — and most obvious — conclusion from the announcement yesterday of the city's assessed valuation.

County Assessor Phillip E. Watson placed the valuation of property here at nearly \$393.1 million for the city and \$392.6 million for the school district (boundaries are not the same).

ANNOUNCEMENT of the valuations sent accountants and budget officials scurrying to their adding machines to figure out the net effect on preliminary budgets.

City Manager Edward J. Ferraro said last night the increase — amounting to 7.2 per cent — is some \$3.5 million higher than the city had anticipated. That, Ferraro said, would produce about \$40,000 in additional revenue without an increase in present tax rates.

The additional monies would be used for capital improvements.

THE INCREASE is substantially below that predicted for the school district in the district's tentative budget. School officials had anticipated an increase to \$401.1 million, or about \$8.5 million less than expected.

That would mean something approaching \$350,000

less in tax revenue for the school district. And the district's \$24.8 million spending program had been based on an increase of some 11 cents in the school tax rate.

FIGURES RELEASED by Watson yesterday did not include the assessed valuation of public utilities in the city. Both the school district and the city expect a \$1 million increase in that figure—from \$22.5 to \$23.5 million.

Watson, in announcing the assessed valuations, said a countywide increase of 5.4 per cent was recorded. Total value of all property in the county was placed at \$16.3 billion.

Notices of individual assessment charges will be in

the mail this week and a full assessment changes will be published in community newspapers in early August.

The Press-Herald will publish the changes for most of Torrance.

PROPERTY OWNERS who have questions about the appraisal of their property were urged to contact the regional office listed on individual assessment notices. Appraisers will be available to discuss the questions.

The assessor also reminded property owners that the filing period for equalization petitions has been changed. Filing is now open and will remain open until Sept. 15. All petitions will be heard by a tax appeals board, he noted.