

Council Asked to Put Park Issue on Ballot

(Story in Column 5)

Torrance

Press-Herald

Published semi-weekly Wednesday and Sunday by King Williams Press, Inc. Entered as second class matter January 26, 1914, at Post Office, Torrance, California, Under act of March 3, 1879.

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Advertising DA 5-6060
Women's News DA 5-6380
News Department DA 5-6060

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Series II, Volume V, Number 9



3238 Sepulveda Blvd., Torrance, California 90510—Wednesday, July 31, 1968

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

48 PAGES



HAPPY FAMILY . . . The Joe Wilcox family, due to leave Torrance in mid-August for a six-year stint in Bangkok, Thailand, is shown here during a Sunday afternoon reception at the Torrance Family YMCA. Wilcox, for the past 12 years the executive director of the Torrance "Y," is leaving to take a post as fraternal secretary of the YMCA in Thailand. With him are his wife, Mary Lou; son, Jeff; and daughter, Susie. Several hundred area families paid tribute to Wilcox during the reception. (Press-Herald Photo)

Three Children Escape Unhurt as House Burns

Murder Charge Issued

A complaint charging murder and assault with intent to commit murder has been issued against David Martin, 28, of 4521 1/2 W. 170th St., by the District Attorney.

Martin was arrested Sunday night by sheriff's deputies after a 23-year-old Torrance man was shot and killed.

The dead man was identified as Larry D. May of 1503 W. 214th St. Deputies said he was shot and killed Sunday while he was attempting to aid Ann Martin, 29, in removing her clothes from the 170th Street home.

MRS. MARTIN told investigating officers she had asked May, who was employed at a stable where she keeps a horse, to protect her while she removed the clothing from her home.

When she and May pulled up in front of the home, it was reported, Martin began firing a .22-calibre rifle. Deputies said he apparently had been waiting inside the house.

Mrs. Martin ducked down in the seat, but May was struck in the back by one bullet. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

Isen Votes 'No' On Resolution Praising Three

City councilmen passed a resolution 6-1 Tuesday night expressing appreciation to the three city councilmen who were defeated for reelection on the April ballot.

David K. Lyman, George Vico, and Ed Talbert were praised for their "faithful and diligent services to the city of Torrance as members of the City Council."

Sole dissenting vote was cast by Mayor Albert Isen.



HOME DESTROYED . . . The home of the Albert Klempan family, 3950 Newton St., was destroyed by fire late last night. Klempan, watching television when the flames broke out, evacuated three children from the home before calling firefighters. Five other Klempan youngsters and their mother were not at home when the fire broke out. Damage was estimated at \$12,000. (Press-Herald Photo)

Flames Destroy House

Three children and their father scurried to safety late last night as flames virtually destroyed their wood-frame home in the Walteria area. Albert E. Klempan, 3950 Newton St., hurried three of his eight children to safety just moments before the rapidly spreading flames involved his home.

Mrs. Klempan and five other children were not home when the fire broke out.

TORRANCE firefighters, responding to the 10:25 p.m. alarm, controlled the fire in about 35 minutes and remained on the scene to eliminate hot spots until almost 2 o'clock this morning.

The home was fully involved in flames when the first fire department units arrived.

Klempan, 53, told firefighters he was watching television in the living room when he heard a strange buzzing noise. He said he went into the kitchen, where he saw flames in the garage area.

HE EVACUATED the three children—Scott, Jeff, and Gina—then called the fire department.

Three engine companies, a truck, and a salvage unit responded to the alarm. Battalion Chief Ray Flagg was in command at the scene.

Fire department officials refused this morning to speculate on the cause of the fire. They did report, however, that a kiln used for making pottery is a "possible cause." The kiln was located adjacent to the garage.

DAMAGE was estimated at \$12,000. Almost two-thirds of the house was virtually destroyed.

One firefighter was injured. (See FIRE, Page A-2)

New Vote on Park Plans Refused by City Fathers

By NATALIE HALL
Press-Herald Staff Writer

City councilmen were besieged Tuesday night with requests that they reconsider their action of last week to accept federal and state funds for the proposed 52-acre Columbia Park in North Torrance. Many of the petitioners urged the council to place the issue on the November ballot.

However, councilmen made no move to rescind their earlier decision, despite Mayor Albert Isen's insistence that the City Council shouldn't try to "ram this down the people's throats."

"Are you afraid of the ballot?" Isen asked his six

colleagues, who voted 4-3 last week to accept funds for the park.

BROACHING the subject of park funds was W. F. Hunter, 17122 Spinning Ave., an official of the North Torrance Property and Homeowners Association. Hunter presented the council with a petition bearing the signatures of 600 area residents who opposed the council's park action. He claimed 75 per cent of his association's members had signed the document.

Bill Roberts, 3937 W. 188th St., a member of the North Torrance homeowners group, told councilmen that he favored the park and that no member of the group had polled him concerning the issue.

Hunter, in presenting the petition, called the council's action "imprudent" and a "mockery of representative government." He requested that the issue be placed on the ballot.

ROSE CRAIG of the Park and Recreation Commission suggested that councilmen limit the regional park to 34 acres and reject state and federal funding for the project, avoiding the wrath of those citizens who object to outside financial aid.

She also said that smaller parks throughout the city might be more useful than one large park. Supporting this point was William Borton, 3116 Winlock Road, representing the Walteria Homeowners Association.

ANOTHER park opponent was L. J. Beauchamp, 3819

Misconduct Charge Filed Against Aide

Public Works Director Walter M. Nollac was suspended from his job Monday afternoon after he was charged with misconduct in a brief filed with the city's Civil Service Commission.

City Manager Edward J. Ferraro filed the brief and suspended Nollac, pending a hearing before the commission.

Ferraro charged that Nollac jointly purchased a boat with a prominent Torrance developer.

NOLLAC TOLD the Press-Herald yesterday he had purchased the boat nearly three years ago, paying half of \$1,950 for it. "More people knew this than you can shake a stick at," Nollac said.

Ferraro, in his charges, did not allege that Nollac had shown any favoritism to the developer because of the joint ownership of the boat.

It was disclosed, however, Tuesday that the district at-

torney's office is looking into the situation. Joseph Medina, deputy district attorney, said, "The city of Torrance has asked us to investigate allegations of favoritism to certain subdivisions and our investigation

will probably last another two or three weeks."

THE 41-YEAR-OLD public works director said he is "going to fight it all the way."

He has 10 days in which to file a written answer to the charges by Ferraro. The Civil Service Commission is then expected to set a date for a hearing on the matter.

The Torrance City Employees Association board, meeting last night, voted to establish a fund to help pay any legal fees which Nollac may encounter.

John Kirkpatrick, chairman of the association's Civil Service Committee, told the Press-Herald six of seven board members were present for the meeting. All six voted in favor of establishing the fund, he said.

Nollac came to Torrance in 1959 from the city of West Covina as city engineer and street superintendent. He was named director of public works in 1966.



WALTER M. NOLLAC
Suspended

Daredevil Jailbreak Reported

A Lomita youth, convicted on felony charges, made a daring escape from Central Jail in Los Angeles Sunday morning.

William E. Seward, 20, of 2020 Lomita Blvd., made a break for the jail's east door at 11:30 a.m. while he and other prisoners were standing in the minimum security visiting area.

Sheriff's spokesmen said Tuesday that Seward was still at large.

Seward was serving one year in jail for burglary and grand theft convictions. He was last seen wearing jail khaki clothing. Seward is described as a white male, 5-foot-9, 135 pounds, with brown hair and blue eyes.

Councilmen Pleased

80 File for Commission Posts

City Councilmen have expressed pleasure and amazement at the number of high-caliber, qualified local citizens who applied for appointments on city commissions and turned out Monday night for the formal interview.

More than 80 persons presented themselves as candidates for the 17 vacancies that currently exist on city commissions and committees.

Councilman Ken Miller said many of the prospective committeemen possess advanced college degrees and extensive background in the fields for which they applied.

"There are so many people that I didn't realize

wanted to work for the city!" Miller exclaimed. "When they knew that they would be screened objectively, they came forward."

The new "general application" system of choosing committeemen was initiated last spring, replacing a councilmanic appointment method of selection. Councilman Donald E. Wilson suggested the application method.

Councilmen will meet today, Wednesday, to discuss the applicants and possibly make their final decisions.

Commenting further on the caliber of the applicants, Miller said, "I got the feeling Monday night that there are many people who want to do something for the city. These applicants don't have

an axe to grind; they just want to get involved.

"I was amazed at the number of people interested in the not-so-political committees," Miller continued. Miller stated that his only worry was that many of these qualified citizens will lose interest in city work since the City Council cannot possibly place all the applicants.

The more than 80 applicants included about five women, Miller noted. City commissions, the number of applicants, the number of those current members reapplying for posts, and the number of vacancies are as follows:

- Youth Welfare Commission — 14 new applicants,

3 openings, 2 seeking reappointment;

- Airport Commission—15 new applicants, 3 openings, 2 seeking reappointment;

- Parks and Recreation — 7 new applicants, 2 openings, 2 seeking reappointment;

- Civil Service—9 new applicants, 2 openings, 2 seeking reappointment;

- City Defense — 6 new applicants, 4 vacancies, none seeking reappointment;

- Library Commission — 3 new applicants, 3 vacancies, one seeking reappointment;

- Metropolitan Water District—4 new applicants, one vacancy, none seeking reappointment;

- Torrance Safety Council (See AIDES, Page A-2)

Plane Crashes; Man Hurt . . .

Lloyd Bohanan, 27, of Torrance, and Marilyn Wallace of Crownpoint, N. M., were injured when Bohanan crashed his light plane while trying to land Sunday in Crownpoint. The crash damaged telephone lines there and put most of the town's communications out of order until Monday. The plane knocked down the telephone lines before coming to rest against an unoccupied house, it was reported.

Carson Gets Counted . . .

Carson's official population count is 66,520, according to figures just released by the State Department of Finance. Final tabulation of punch card data obtained as part of the city census is in the hands of City administrator Fred Bien. The data, which covers much of the economic and population breakdown, has not been fully processed because of lack of manpower in the infant city hall.

Home Looted by Burglars . . .

A Walteria man who left his home Tuesday to watch a fire nearby returned to find more than \$1,000 in goods missing from his home. Frank Dolnic, 33, of 24230 Ocean Ave., told police a color television set, two hand guns, and a camera were taken. Dolnic said he left his home about 11:30 p.m. to watch the nearby fire and returned about 11:45 p.m. A sliding glass door was found ajar, police said.