

Judge Doubts Workability of Gun Laws

(Story in Column 1)

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RECEIVES CERTIFICATE . . . Yvonne Morre, 18-year-old West High graduate, accepts a certificate of proficiency as a medical assistant from Dr. Wayne Butterbaugh, superintendent of the Southern California Regional Occupational Center. Dorothy Breckhiemer, the center's medical assistant instructor, watches at left. Miss Morre was one of nearly 300 students who received certificates Friday as the center honored the first group of students to complete its training program. (Press-Herald Photo)

Public Works Director Cleared of Misconduct

Aide Censored By Group for Bad Judgement

Misconduct charges against Public Works Director Walter M. Nollac were dismissed Thursday night by the Civil Service Commission in a 6-1 vote. The decision culminated a 6½-hour hearing that lasted until 2 a.m.

However, the commission was "almost unanimous" in condemning Nollac for "poor taste and poor judgment," in the words of Larry Bowman, chairman of the Civil Service Commission, who presided over the hearings.

Nollac returned to his desk Friday morning. He will be paid for the nearly four weeks he did not work as a result of the commission's action.

Nollac was suspended from his \$25,000-a-year post July 29 after City Manager Edward J. Ferraro accused him of "misconduct." Charges stemmed from Nollac's admitted co-ownership of a boat with Torrance area land developer Kenneth Battrum.

SINCE NOLLAC joined the city of Torrance in 1959, he has processed a number of tract maps submitted to his department by development companies affiliated with Battrum, and has made recommendations on these transactions to the Torrance City Council.

Nollac denied, however, that he had ever had an ownership or any interest in any of Battrum's companies, which include Bajji Enterprises, Sunnyside Construction Co., Inc., Lanco Engineering, Kenland Construction Co., or South Bay Realty Co.

Nollac also testified that he paid exactly half of the boat's first cost and monthly

harboring fees, and has never received any gifts or favors of any kind from Battrum or his interests.

TESTIMONY at Thursday night's hearing centered around the fact that a \$6,455 "refund" had been paid to South Bay Riviera III (South Bay Realty) by the city in October, 1967, for drainage facilities constructed by the company on tract 30376.

City records show that in April, 1967, the sum of \$4,436 was received from South Bay Riviera III for partial payment of the drainage district fee for the tract. In addition to that, the subdivider completed construction of the planned drainage facilities at a cost of \$12,983, for a total of \$17,419.

According to a communique to the City Council from Nollac, the developer was only under obligation to spend \$910,964 in construction of the drain and therefore should be reimbursed for the sum of \$6,455.

CITY MANAGER Ferraro concurred in the matter and the City Council passed the measure.

The difference of opinion stemmed from the point that South Bay Riviera apparently did not submit the drainage work to public, competitive bidding.

Ferraro and his attorney, Walter Anderson, pointed to Article 5, Section 7, of the Torrance City Charter, which states that every contract for more than \$2,000 for the construction of public drains, sewers, and other public works shall be given to the lowest bidder after notice by publication.

(See NOLLAC, Page A-3)



MERIT AWARD . . . Eddy Arney (right) displays the plaque he receives as the 1968 winner of the Torrance Youth Band's Merit Bandsman scholarship. Max Pridmore (left), president of the band's board of directors, and director Jim Davidson made the presentation. Arney, a 1968 graduate of North High School, has been a drummer with the Youth Band for the past eight years. He currently attends El Camino College.

Judge Speaks Up

Current Controls Are 'Meaningless'

(Editor's note: This is the final article in a series on gun law enforcement prepared by the Press-Herald after some police officials complained that courts are not adequately upholding current gun laws. Today, the Press-Herald presents the views of South Bay Municipal Court Judge George R. Perkovich Jr.)

By NATALIE HALL
Press-Herald Staff Writer

Who is that man behind the gun? Is he young and

immature? Is he an addict? Does he have a record? What about his mental problems?

"What's the nature of this fellow?" asks Judge George R. Perkovich Jr. in discussing the current gun control question.

The South Bay Municipal Court judge is convinced that weapon control must be targeted at the person unfit to handle firearms — and not at the responsible citizen.

JUDGE Perkovich believes that guns are too readily available, but underlined that the hunter and sportsman should not be placed in the same category with the incompetent.

At any rate, "shotgun" legislation hastily tacked onto the books in reaction to recent assassinations is no answer to the problem, Perkovich stated.

"I just don't know whether registration will stop the problem," the judge said. "I doubt it."

HOWEVER, Perkovich went on to say that he has no real objection to gun registration in spite of this doubt.

What about gun laws already on the books? "Meaningless" was the word the silver-haired jurist used to describe recent measures to curb the use of loaded guns.

The loaded gun law, passed last year, is fraught with so many exceptions, he said, that "you can drive trucks through it!" (The law prohibits the carrying of a loaded weapon, concealed or not, except when the carrier believes that he or his property are in immediate danger.)

PERKOVICH said that many citizens are not aware of the new law, believing they may carry a loaded gun as long as it is in plain view. The judge said he sees a great deal of difference between the innocent citi-

zen who is merely confused about the law and the criminal caught with a gun under suspicious circumstances.

At worst, the uninformed citizen could expect a small fine from Perkovich — and never gun confiscation.

If gun registration comes to pass, where should control be centralized? Judge Perkovich believes nationwide registration through the federal government would be the only practical approach. "If I want to pull a robbery in Boston, it's only four hours away," Perkovich said, explaining that modern transportation would make purely local registration meaningless.

PERKOVICH said that what gun enthusiasts fear most is the possibility that gun registration will be repealed. (See GUNS, Page A-3)

Vandalism Crackdown Suggested

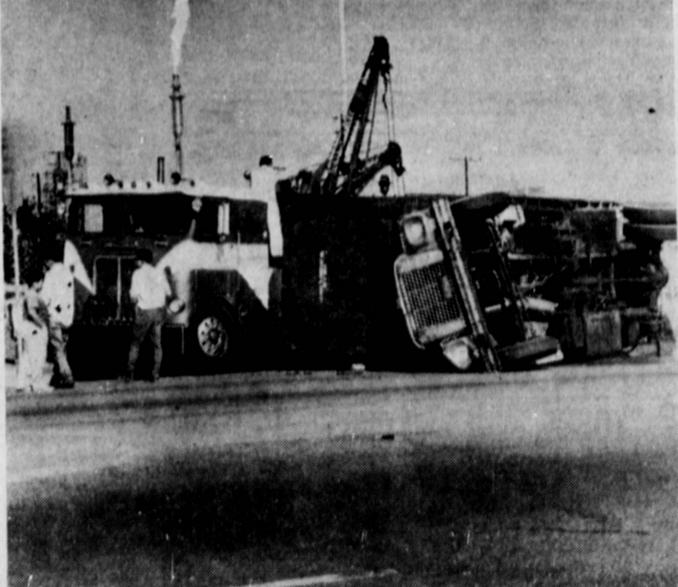
Councilman William J. Uerkwitz has called for the cooperation of local residents and homeowners' groups in cracking down on vandalism in Torrance city parks.

Uerkwitz told fellow councilmen at Tuesday's meeting that vandals are responsible for some \$17,500 worth of damage to city parks every year. The destruction includes everything from ripping up plants to spray-painting buildings.

"Now is the time to call on the citizenry to protect their property in these parks," Uerkwitz exclaimed, demanding that juvenile offenders or their parents be required to personally repair damage done to the parks.

Councilman Donald E. Wilson suggested that the city place signs in the parks asking bystanders to call the police in case of vandalism. Wilson said similar signs placed on school property had proved to be a partial deterrent to wanton destruction.

The city is currently working on a night lighting plan for the parks.



RIGHT TRUCK . . . A large crane attempts to right a trash truck which overturned Thursday morning after two rear wheels came off the truck. Police said the accident occurred at Crenshaw and Del Amo Boulevards near the Dow Chemical Co. facility. Jesus A. Collazo of Los Angeles was identified as driver of the truck. (Press-Herald Photo)

Month-Long Investigation

Police Jail 11 Persons After Narcotics Raid

Eleven persons, one of them a teenager, were arrested by Torrance police Thursday night during a narcotics raid on a North Torrance home.

Three of the persons were charged with possession of marijuana and the other eight were arrested on charges of visiting a place where narcotics are being used.

Police said the raid ended a month-long investigation into narcotics activities at the home.

ARRESTED were: Donald Purkey, 37, of

18523 Greville Ave., charged with possession of marijuana and possession of dangerous drugs.

Mrs. Nancy Purkey, 37, his wife, also charged with possession of marijuana and possession of dangerous drugs.

David Houchens, 20, of 1505 W. 219th St., charged with possession of marijuana.

THOSE arrested on charges of visiting a place where narcotics are being used were:

Robert Tony Davis, 23, of Big Bear, Calif.

Carol Sue Risico, 18, of Hawthorne.

Clyde Leroy Butterfield, 22, of 2010 Perry Ave., Redondo Beach.

Deloras Jean Lee, 22, of Huntington Beach.

Michael Tomas Liter, 25, of 4542 W. 163rd St.

Dianna June Lee, 24, of Hermosa Beach.

Deah Jean Stover, 21, of 627 Island Ave., Wilmington.

(See RAID, Page A-3)

Robbery Charges Jail Pair

Gardena police have arrested two men in connection with the robbery of a Torrance liquor store last Wednesday evening.

Arrested were Steven J. Doman of Torrance and Larry Wayne Knight of Gardena. They were arrested Thursday about 4:15 p.m., Gardena police said.

They are being held in connection with the robbery of the General Liquor Store, 2222 W. Redondo Beach Blvd.

Clerk Arthur Larson, 70, of Inglewood, told Torrance police following the robbery Wednesday that he was in an ice room in the store when he saw a man standing near the checkstand with a gun.

"This is a holdup," the gunman told Larson. "Give me all your money."

Larson said the two suspects got \$66 in the robbery.

Library to Get Tough . . .

Torrance City Library officials are going to adopt a "get tough" policy with patrons who have overdue books and materials, City Librarian Russel J. West has announced. West said many patrons have overdue books and fines in excess of \$5 despite a liberal fine-free period during the transition from county to city operation. The overdue accounts will be turned over to the city's collection department, West said, to collect the fines and recover books. Patrons will, however, have another three weeks before any action is taken to collect the fines, he said.

Diamond Ring, Cash Taken . . .

A diamond ring valued at \$300 and \$40 in cash were taken from the home of Ellen Erickson, 21706 Vicky St., sometime Friday. Mrs. Erickson reported the theft to police when she returned home from work about 4 p.m. Friday. Police said someone had removed a screen and climbed through a bedroom window.

Council Sets Session . . .

Torrance City Councilmen are scheduled to hold a regular meeting Tuesday at 8 p.m. at the City Hall. The council will consider two zone changes involving property on the south side of Redondo Beach Boulevard between Thornburgh Avenue and Almsworth Avenue. Councilmen will meet again Thursday as a committee of the whole to discuss the oil well beautification program in the South Torrance area. A bus tour of the area is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. The council will return to the City Hall for discussion about 7:30 p.m.