

# Council Approves Sale of Library Bonds

(Story in Column 1)

Torrance

## Press-Herald

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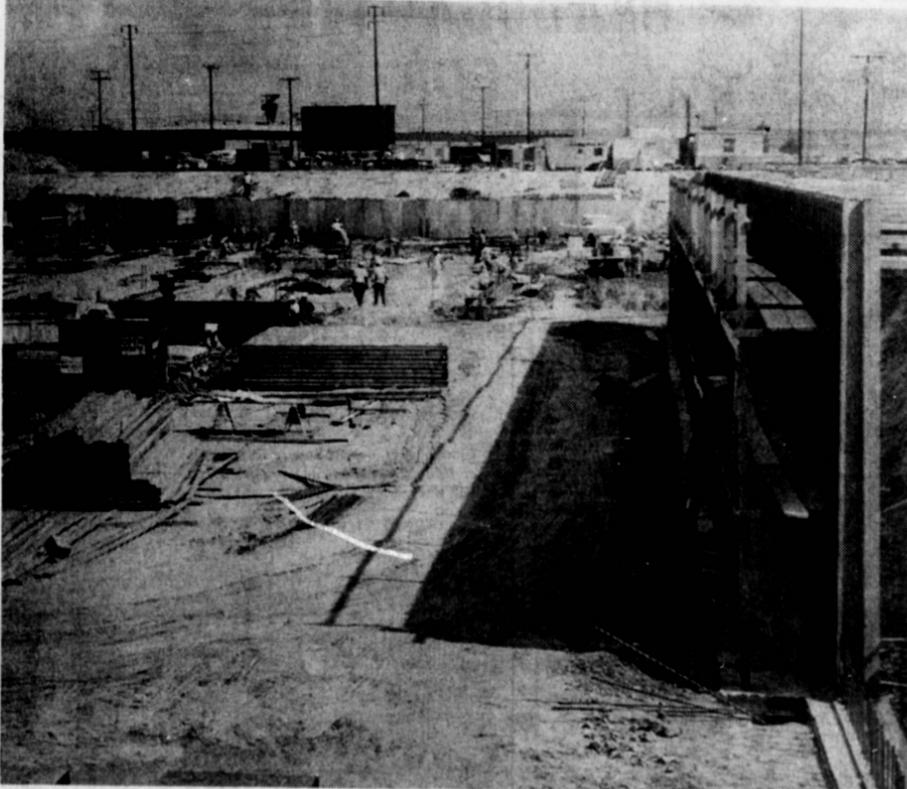
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**GOING UP . . .** The new Torrance Memorial Hospital, located on a 10-acre site near Lomita and Hawthorne Boulevards, began to look less like a big hole in the ground this week as workmen began putting up forms for the first walls. Construction

of the \$8 million, 250-bed complex is expected to take about two years. The new hospital was formed when Torrance Memorial and Riviera Community hospitals merged.

(Press-Herald Photo)

# Homeowners Plan Community Patrol

## Flames Damage Homes

Fire did an estimated \$3,000 in damage to two Lomita homes and a garage Monday afternoon.

County firefighters said the fire apparently started in a storage area between the garage and a house located at 25219 Cypress St. Flames spread to a home at 25301 Cypress St. before it was brought under control.

Units from County Fire Station No. 6 were on their way to a brush fire in San Pedro when the 4:45 p.m. alarm was sounded. Firefighters had observed smoke in the area and were within a block of the fire when the alarm was reported.

**HEAVIEST** damage was reported to the house at 25301 Cypress St., where one corner, the attic, and part of the roof was damaged. The home is occupied by Charles Bean and his family and owned by William Trumble of Bullhead, Ariz.

Damage to the Bean home was estimated at \$2,200. The second house, occupied by Thomas M. Thomas, is owned by Paul Hegar of Lomita. A wall and part of the roof were damaged. The loss was estimated at about \$1,000.

**ONE WALL** and part of the roof on the garage were destroyed, it was reported. (See FIRE, Page A-3)

## City Aide Takes New Position

Lloyd De Llamas, senior administrative assistant to City Manager Edward J. Ferraro, will leave his post here to become city manager of Woodlake, Calif.

De Llamas, who joined the city of Torrance in May, 1966, will assume his new duties in the San Joaquin Valley town Sept. 13. Woodlake, an agricultural and business community with a population of about 3,200, is located in the foothills of Sequoia National Forest.

De Llamas was employed for three years by the city of San Diego before coming to Torrance.

## Police Object To Plans for Patrol System

By NATALIE HALL  
Press-Herald Staff Writer

In spite of police protests, members of the North Torrance Homeowners Association have decided to organize a "community area patrol" in order to cut down crime in their neighborhoods.

Association President William F. Hunter, speaking at Monday's meeting of the group, expressed concern about the number of burglaries, car strippings, child molestations, and narcotics incidents in North Torrance.

Hunter said the patrol will be tried on a one-square-mile test area, with two-man, radio-equipped vehicles patrolling from 8:30 p.m. to 2 a.m. The area covered will extend from 166th Street to 176th Street, and from Crenshaw Boulevard to Van Ness Avenue.

**HUNTER** said some 50 persons have signed up for patrol duty and 12 more have volunteered as alternates. A goal of 62 regular patrollers has been established so that the two-man teams may patrol one night per month each.

The group has applied to the FCC for a radio license to enable the patrol teams to issue reports to a central receiver, who will call the police, if necessary.

Police representatives have spoken at two recent association meetings, expressing grave doubts about the wisdom of "vigilante" patrol groups. However, the Torrance Police Department has offered to provide free group instruction for patrollers to

inform them of laws of arrest, search and seizure, juvenile laws, and police protection.

**POLICE** Capt. Robert E. Hammond told the homeowners that untrained individuals do not know what to look for while patrolling and may easily misinterpret what they observe. Furthermore, he said, the untrained citizen does not know what to do in a dangerous situation and may infringe on the privacy or rights of others.

"People participating in this type of activity will find out just how difficult a policeman's job is!" Captain Hammond exclaimed.

Capt. Philip H. Wilson addressed the group at Monday's meeting, stressing that the police department is "unalterably opposed" to the community patrol concept.

"I pointed out that it is much more effective if neighbors watch their own neighbors," the captain said. "They know their neighbors; they do not know people when they get a mile away."

**CAPTAIN** Wilson pointed out the dangers of observing a crime, stating that it would be a temptation for patrollers to become directly involved in a situation. "It would be very easy for a driver, trying to follow a vehicle, to begin speeding, or to carry clubs or guns for self-protection."

Captain Wilson said that Hunter thanked him for his opinion, but continued with plans for the patrol. (See CITIZEN, Page A-3)

## For Main Library

# Bids Due Oct. 1 on Bonds

City councilmen voted 5-0 Tuesday night to issue general obligation library bonds in the amount of \$1,550,000 so that work may proceed on the proposed Main Branch of the new Torrance library system.

The resolution also called for sealed proposals for the bonds. In voting to issue the bonds, councilmen acted on the authority of the city's voters, who voted in April, 1967, to incur a total indebtedness of \$2,350,000 for the new library system.

**EARLIER** this year, councilmen issued bonds on the remaining \$800,000.

The new Torrance Municipal Library System, under the leadership of City Librarian Russell J. West, recently completed the mammoth task of taking over from the

Los Angeles County Library System, which had provided library service for the city for nearly 30 years.

The take-over required West to purchase a completely new collection of books for the five branch libraries and hire new personnel.

**THE PROPOSED** Main Branch of the library system will be located on Torrance Boulevard in the Civic Center complex. The \$1,250,000 structure was designed by Earl Heitschmidt and Associates, architects.

Main features of the 55,000-square-foot edifice will be a central foyer, branching out into areas reserved for staff offices, book stacks, and public meeting facilities. A children's library is also included in the blueprints.

Councilmen Jay Beasley

and Ross Sciarotta were absent from the meeting.

**IN FURTHER** action, the council approved a zone change on property located on the south side of Redondo Beach Boulevard between Thornburgh Avenue and Ainsworth Avenue, in the McDonald Tract. The change for C-2 and R-1 to R-P and R-3 with a per se plan was endorsed by a 5-0 vote.

However, councilmen made an acceptance for the

property at 3864 Redondo Beach Blvd., after owner Harry A. Campbell, protested that the zone change would impose a hardship.

Councilmen also okayed a variance for Higgins Brick and Tile Co., which requested an A-1 zone to permit storage of scaffolding supplies and materials.

The company plans to store the materials on the south side of Artesia Boulevard between Casimir Avenue and Van Ness Avenue.

## Prototype RTD Coach Unveiled

A Rapid Transit Design Car similar to the high-speed mass transit trains that will be operating here if voters approve rapid transit financing Nov. 5 was unveiled yesterday at the South Bay Center, Hawthorne and Artesia boulevards.

The gleaming prototype transit train of the future will remain on display through Labor Day and will be open to the public daily from 10 a.m. until at least 8:30 p.m.

The vehicle, on loan from San Francisco's Bay Area Rapid Transit District — where a transit system already is under construction — cost \$500,000 to develop.

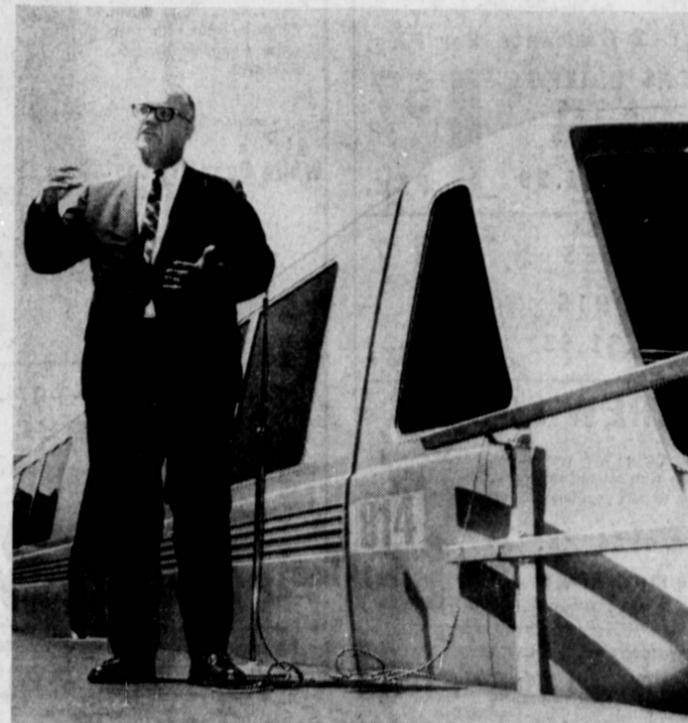
**IT IS CARPETED,** air-conditioned, and equipped with large picture windows, foam rubber upholstered seats,

coal and rust brown decor. The 70-foot computer-controlled coach seats 72 passengers and can go up to 75 miles per hour.

First phase of Southern California Rapid Transit District's master plan calls for 89 miles of combined skyway, subway, and surface rail service along five corridors — Airport-Southwest, Long Beach, Wilshire, San Fernando Valley, and San Gabriel Valley.

**MORE THAN 300** miles of additional local and express feeder bus service, including Torrance area lines, also are planned.

Sixty-five stations will be served by 756 of the electrically-propelled cars. If the ballot measure passes Nov. 5, construction will start in 1970. The system will be completely operational by 1973.



**PROTOTYPE CAR SHOWN . . .** Dale W. Barratt, general manager of the Southern California Rapid Transit District, opens an exhibit featuring an RTD prototype car developed for the San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit District. The car, on loan from San Francisco, is similar to the type which will be used here if voters approve a bond issue Nov. 5 to finance the initial construction of the 89-mile system. The car will be displayed at the South Bay Center through Labor Day. The computer-controlled car will carry 72 passengers at speeds up to 75 miles per hour. (Press-Herald Photo)

## Youngster Struck by Auto; Dies

A 3-year-old girl was killed Monday evening when she was struck by a car in front of her home.

Pronounced dead on arrival at Little Company of Mary Hospital was Vicky Marie Spurlock, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Spurlock of 2645 W. 230th Place.

The accident occurred about 7:15 p.m. in front of the Spurlock home. A 17-year-old Torrance boy was booked by police on a felony manslaughter charge.

Police said the suspect was speeding when the little girl darted in front of his car. The youth reportedly confessed that he was traveling too fast — about 45 miles per hour — and was unable to stop in time to avoid the youngster.

## Bank in Lomita Held Up

A man dressed in a gray suit robbed a Lomita bank Tuesday afternoon and escaped with nearly \$2,000.

Sheriff's deputies said the man entered the Gateway Bank, 2201 Pacific Coast Hwy., at 3:30 p.m. and gave teller Joan Angelo a deposit slip. The man then simulated a gun under the coat and told the teller, "This is a holdup, hurry up and give me the money."

The teller put \$1,941 in a red plastic pouch which the man gave her. He then took the pouch, walked out of the bank, jumped into a car, and drove away.

## Earns Degree

John Allan Gillmartin will receive a bachelor of science degree in business and industrial management Friday in commencement exercises at San Jose State College.

## Torrance Couple Jailed . . .

A 40-year-old Torrance man and his 27-year-old wife were arrested here Monday on felony charges of conspiracy to distribute pornographic material. Arthur S. Grant and his wife, Nikki, were arrested by members of the district attorney's Bureau of Investigation and the Gardena Police Department. A third suspect, Maxwell Herman of Lynwood, also was arrested. Officers said they confiscated \$300 worth of still photographs, \$6,000 in movie film, and 10 rolls of movie negatives when they made the arrests at an apartment at 4104 Emerald St. The arrests were made after a member of the district attorney's staff reportedly purchased an 8 mm film from Herman Monday in Gardena. Mr. and Mrs. Grant also were booked on suspicion of possession of marijuana, officers said.

## City Crews Mark Holidays . . .

Rubbish collection crews in Torrance will observe both the Labor Day and Admission Day holidays, Public Works Director Walter M. Nollac has announced. City crews will not work Monday, Sept. 2, or Monday, Sept. 9. During plebe citywide collections. Normal schedules will both weeks, collections will be made one day later, with crews working each Saturday to comply resumed Monday, Sept. 16.

## County, School Taxes Up . . .

Tax rates for both the Torrance Unified School District and Los Angeles County were hiked Tuesday by the Board of Supervisors. The board set the Torrance school tax rate at \$4.9502 per \$100 of assessed valuation, up 3.08 cents from the 1967-68 rate. The county rate was set at a record \$2.6810 per \$100 assessed valuation, up 22.23 cents from last year's rate.